The Daily and Weekly Commercial—Newspapers, Discounts.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice, whether directed to his name or anyother's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

Remittances must be made in Money Orders, Bank Checks, or Drafts, if possible. When neither of these can be procured, send the money in a Registered Letter. The present Registration system is virtually an Absolute Protection Against Losses by mail, and all Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so.

☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X.—NO. 25. WEEKLY EDITION. APRIL 26, 1873.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

TO CLEAN SWEETMEAT JARS OR BOTTLES.

This can be done without scraping them by pouring in the jars hot water and a teaspoonful or two of pearlash. The contents which remain sticking to the sides and bottom of the jar will be disengaged by the pearlash and float loose in the water. Wash bottles the same way, or bottles or any other vessels which you wish to purify or clear from grease. Strong lye poured off clear from good hickory ashes will answer nearly as well for the same purpose, and for kegs, buckets and other large cooking utensils, lye from good ashes may always be used.

FISH WITH STALE BREAD.

Dip a flat dish in hot water to prevent cracking; smear it with butter and sprinkle pepper in it; then a layer of stale bread, grated fine; upon the bread a layer of cold fish, picked free from the bones and divided into small pieces; the fish should be soaked a little to take the salt out, then another of bread as before, with a little melted butter without milk poured over it. Repeat as often as needed for the quantity of fish. Smooth the surface with a spoon, and sprinkle slightly with fine bread mixed with pepper. Place it in an oven for twenty or thirty minutes. It is a nice dish for any meal.

PLOWING LAND WHILE WET.

A correspondent of the *Rural Sun*, Nashville, Tenn., makes some sensible remarks on the evils of working land while too wet. He says: I have, as you may have heard, perhaps, been spending the winter in Logan county, Kentucky. This is regarded as one of the best portions of the Green river country for agricultural purposes. The farmers raise corn, wheat, tobacco, hogs and mules here to considerable profit. But there seems to be here, as almost everywhere that I have been, a gradual decline in the productive capacity of the land, and many farms have fallen far below what they once were in this respect. The causes in part that have brought this about are plain to every one, namely: General mismanagement and neglect. But there must be something besides, not so obvious or carefully noted by the farmers, that is operating to cause it. And I will offer an opinion on the subject, I would say it was due mainly to working the land when too wet. This is done, more or less everywhere according to my belief.

Every farmer knows this is wrong, but not one in ten thousand, perhaps, knows to what extent it is wrong. When the season, perhaps late, the farm work very much behind; the rain continues to fall, and the farmers become impatient and fretful at what the Creator and governor of all things is doing, gets soured into the frame or condition of mind to do something wrong, and does it! Tells his hands he believes the rain will never stop; orders them to put in the crop; starts himself with the plows, when the ground, perhaps, is so wet that the water stands in the furrows, and while in this condition, plow up, perhaps, the best field he has.

In a few days after this, the weather breaks up and the hot sun and drying winds cause his field to look as if covered with sun-dried bricks. The work is now done! Never again will he see the dark green corn, wheat and clover wave over that land as it has waved before. It has received its mortal wound. In a few years with such treatment, his farm is ruined. He finds he can't make a support on it, sells it and goes to Kansas, or Texas, or somewhere else, to get rich land? Fortunately, few farmers bring on this catastrophe so rapidly. They administer the poison in broken doses, which produces in the result more slowly but not the less surely.

If what I have heard of a farmer in this vicinity be true, it illustrates in the great importance of working land only when in proper condition. It is said that when he commenced farming some twenty-five or thirty years ago, he made a resolve that he would not work land while it was too wet. But, in addition to this, he would not work land when it was not in good condition and has kept his vow.

It is said this farmer keeps things ready, and waits patiently for the land to get suitably open, and as soon as the condition of his land suits him, puts in his two horse plows, breaks it up well, plants his corn and cultivates it with harrows and shovel plows, so as to keep it loose and well pulverized, to get the benefit of the sunshine, dews and rains, and also the genial influences of the atmosphere, with but little manuring of any kind. Alternating with corn and wheat only.

And strange to tell, with this system of farming rigidly, though adhering to his idea of never moving the land under any kind of cond. which he considers as the pivot on which all turns, he has, as it is said, been able to keep his land lively and productive during all the long years, and about equal to the farms of the neighborhood, managed in the most approved style.

Now, as it is clear that there must be some element in this system of farming that keeps the land up, the inference is that this element is the close and judicious attention to the condition of the soil in its cultivation. It is however, not to be supposed from what has been said, that it is thought more rest and manuring would not have greatly increased the production of the land referred to.—*Ohio Farmer.*

WHAT A GOOD GARDEN WILL FURNISH.

Let any farmer take, say, an acre of land, more or less according to the size of his family; fence it so as to keep out fowls and all other depredators, spade it thoroughly, and then plant one half to grapes, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries and strawberries, currants, asparagus and rhubarb or pie plant.

Next, in the remaining portion, the two plots receive the same amount of labor and cultivation. The stalks were cut September 17, and stacked in good order; three weeks afterward the corn was husked and tied. The husks, as they were then again carefully stacked, and hauled and weighed, in good condition October 12. The corn on the portion planted in hills was better in quality than on that planted in drills. But the drilled portion produced seventy-four and one-sixth bushels of shelled corn, and three tons of stalks to the acre, against sixty-five and one-fifth bushels of shelled corn, and two and two-thirds tons of stalks per acre produced by the portion in hills.—*Rural World.*

SALT YEAST.

Put a gallon of cold water on the fire; let it come to a boil, and then put into it eight good Irish potatoes and boil until well done, when they must be mashed fine together with one teacupful of salt and one of white sugar. Directly after having cut the potatoes, put a handful of hops into the water, and let it boil while you are preparing the potatoes. Mix these with hop water, which must be boiling hot when added, and unstrained. When nearly cold, add one cup of lively yeast, stir well and set aside to rise in a warm place for twenty-four hours. Then strain, bottle and cork it up tightly. Strain through a seive only, that as much potato as possible, and let it boil through. Allow a teacupful of this yeast to a quart of good flour in cold weather, in summer a less quantity is required. Keep the bread warm as it rises.

Prof. S. W. Johnson, speaking of salting butter, says in the New York *Tribune* that about three per cent. is the proper quantity of salt required at the time of working, and one-half per cent. more when the butter is reworked and put down for long keeping. We should like to hear from some of our best butter makers on this question.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 17, 1873.

Proposed Change in the Mode of Electing the President of the United States.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, of which Senator Morton is Chairman, will meet in this city next October, for the purpose of considering the important question of amending the Constitution of the United States so far as relates to the method of electing the President and Vice President of the United States. The committee will request letters to the leading jurists and publicists and other competent persons in the United States, asking their views on the subject and announcing their wish to receive suggestions. It will be remembered that Senator Morton has already had a prominent part in bringing this important subject to the consideration of Congress. The experience of the late Presidential election has demonstrated the necessity of some change. The death of Mr. Greeley before the counting of the electoral vote gave a practical illustration of one very defective feature of the present system. Had Mr. Greeley been elected, and died, the case would have been worse. There is also a desire to make the mode of election more popular.

The Transportation Question.

The Senate Select Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard met at the Capitol to-day. Several prominent railroad men were present. Mr. Hinckly, of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, presented a list of parties who were entitled to by the Postoffice Department as entitled to free rides in the postal cars. In the list were a large number of persons who had no connection whatever with the postal service. Not only was this "dead heading" of persons in postal cars carried on, but it was also complained that the postal cars were used to carry freight for these and other parties. Col. Carrington, President of the James River and Kanawha Canal, was also present and invited the committee to visit the line of the work. The committee accepted the invitation and will make the visit during the summer. A sub-committee was appointed to examine into the working of the railroads on the Pacific coast. The members chosen for this duty were Senators Mitchell, of Oregon, Casserly, of California, and Davis, of West Virginia. On motion of Mr. Davis, it was resolved that the members of the committee should pay their own personal expenses on the condition of official regard for the people's money.

Consolidation of Central American States.

The Secretary of State has received official notification of the consolidation of the five Central American States by act of Congress, and consequently of the cessation of their diplomatic functions abroad. The appointment of a minister has not yet been determined whether one of the present ministers will be designated to act for the five States, or whether a new appointment will be made.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18, 1873.

The Extermination Commenced.

Gen. Gillem is doing effective work in the Lava Beds. Gen. Sherman to-night received, through Gen. Schofield at San Francisco, a telegram from Gillem, dated at "Headquarters of the Army in the Field," April 16th. It says: We have had some very severe fighting to-day and have driven the Indians about two miles, capturing their camps, have succeeded in cutting them off from the water. They must now break through our lines or evacuate their stronghold. Our lines are not more than four hundred yards from the Indian caves. I can give no adequate description of the ground over which we have fought. Mortar shells were shooting into the Indian camp yesterday and during last night. I find it will be impossible, owing to the nature of the ground, to surround the Indians with a large force. Our loss to-day is two killed and four wounded.

Adjournment of Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of the United States will hear no more cases. The Court has adjourned until the 29th of the present month. On that day the Court will reassemble, and after the usual call of the docket in closing up the pending business will adjourn until the autumn.

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The patriotism of some of the honorary Commissioners to the Vienna Exposition has given out. Their representatives have arrived here and are quite embarrassing. The Department of State, however, has no way of paying their expenses, were it willing. But, in addition to this, the act of Congress especially prohibits such expenditure on account of this class of Commissioners. It is very amusing to note the suggestions which the gentlemen of Africa's shores have communicated by letter to the Secretary of State in order to ascertain whether their own expenses might be paid out of the public treasury. The Secretary, unfortunately, does not see the matter in the same light, and the persons appointed for the paying positions, The Exposition evidently, in their opinion, will suffer from their absence.

Encouraging the Postmaster System.

The acting Postmaster General has instructed Special Agent Samuel Smith to visit the cities not already supplied, having twenty thousand or more inhabitants, in accordance with the second of the act of March 3, 1873, providing for the extension of the free delivery service. The cities to be visited are Chicago, Ill.; Cincinnati, O.; Cleveland, O.; Patterson, N. J.; Rochester, N. Y.; Kansas City, Mo.; Mobile, Ala.; Fall River, Mass.; Springfield, Mass.; Peoria, Ill.; Covington, Ky.; Quincy, Ill.; Evansville, Ind.; Oswego, N. Y.; Elizabeth, N. J.; Savannah, Ga.; Memphis, Tenn.; Camden, N. J.; Davenport, Iowa, and St. Paul, Minn. Special Agent Smith will proceed South first.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 20, 1873.

The advance of the Hayden Territories Geological Exploration of the Territories left here this evening for Denver, Colorado. The party consisten of Capt. Stevenson, master of transportation, J. N. Coulter, botanist, and W. H. Holmes, photographer. Capt. Stevenson will establish a camp of rendezvous at Cheyenne, under Dan. Dawson, and will here organize the transportation and accumulate the stores of the expedition. The scientific corps will not reach there before ten days. Professor Hayden will have his reports, now being rendered complete, ready for the press by this month. The expedition will start from Clear creek about June first. It will first move to the west one hundred miles and then turn to the south to New Mexico, exploring a belt of country one hundred and fifty miles wide, which takes in the whole back bone of the Rocky Mountains. The expedition will be absent about four months. Its members expect to return with a rich store of scientific and practical knowledge of the wonders of Colorado and New Mexico no less complete than they brought from the Yellowstone.

Senator Bayard's Reasons for Returning "Back Pay."

The Secretary of the Treasury received the following letter from Senator Bayard refunding his share of the "back pay" voted to Members of Congress:

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 17, 1873.

SIR: Under the Appropriation bill passed on the last night of the Forty-second Congress, I became entitled to the compensation for the first Congress, and I now enclose my check on the National Metropolitan bank of this city for the full amount, to be paid into the Treasury of the United States. As a member of the Senate Committee of Conference to which the bill was referred, I did not feel unavailingly to have this feature of increased retroactive pay stricken out. I had then the alternative of voting for the bill as it came to me, or else for the necessary expenses of the government because of the objectionable feature. And, in my judgment, to make an extra session of Congress immediately necessary, the cost of which would alone have exceeded the amount of "back pay," and which, for other reasons, I deemed prejudicial to the public interest; and therefore I preferred the bill would pass. It was my undoubted legal right to receive this "back pay," and it rests solely in my own discretion whether I retain it. My hesitancy on this question has chiefly arisen from an unwillingness to even possibly to seem in refusing to keep this money to reflect upon those of my fellow members who personally and conscientiously take a different view of the matter. As, however, I joined in the report of the Committee of Conference, and voted in favor of the bill on the grounds of public duty, so I feel entitled to maintain from the position of official action an item of pecuniary advantage to myself I felt constrained to vote for under the circumstances I have stated, but for which I would not have voted as a separate measure. This remittance is my voluntary and personal act, which I deem the course proper to accompany with the foregoing statement.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. F. BAYARD.

Hon. Wm. A. Richardson, Secretary of the Treasury.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., April 21, 1873.

Gen. Schofield.

General Sherman to-day received a dispatch from Gen. Schofield, asking permission for Louis V. Caziare, 2d Artillery, Atd deCamp to the late General, to accompany the remains of Captain Jack to Indianapolis. The request was promptly granted. No other information has as yet been received as to the funeral of Capt. Canby in regard to the interment of her husband.

The Situation in Louisiana.

At army headquarters no official intelligence has been received respecting the disorders in the interior parishes of Louisiana, and particularly concerning the conflict between the whites and blacks in the parish of Grant. It is said that the orders originally sent to the Commanding General in Louisiana are in accordance with the act of Congress authorizing the use of the military power to aid the land of the carrying out of any processes or decisions of the United States Courts. Except within the scope of this authority the Administration and officers of the government will take no part in the disturbances in the State, unless a requisition is made upon the Attorney General to-day received a telegram from Governor Kellogg, which reported quiet in that portion of the State, though there is considerable uneasiness manifested in some half a dozen parishes. He also says that the militia force now at his command Emory were not to take an active part, but to prevent any possible outbreak. The collection of the taxes is going on very satisfactory, notwithstanding the opposition of some parties.

The Postal Car Controversy

has come to a rather unexpected conclusion. After Mr. Hinckley had made his statement, Mr. Davis submitted the postoffice side of the question, and presented such an array of facts and figures that others to have been interested withdrew from the contest. It was shown that the rates paid for mails from New York to Chicago were very much more than the regular tariff on first class freight. There were, however, some abuses, which will be corrected, and after duly let a new schedule of compensation for the use of postal cars will be projected.

The Frontier Visitors.

Recent letters from the frontier of War and parties on the frontier of Texas state that they will probably visit the Pacific coast before returning to Washington.

The Apaches Suing for Peace—Order of Major General Crook.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—We have advices from Prescott to April 8th. The troops arrived at Camp Verde, April 4th, followed by the Indians from Camp Vadee, April 4th, following the same day. Chatapan, one of the head chiefs, sent he asked for peace but became frightened. The Indians are still afraid to do otherwise. Cocnise's warriors are the only ones in Arizona now depredating, they will continue hitting terrible outrages and a fear like one on the people of Sonora, under color of protection of the United States. Major General Crook has issued the following order:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA, PRESCOTT, April 7.—It is with pleasure the announcement is made of the surrender of a large number of Indians under Chatapan, and the military operation has been prosecuted for the past four months. Assurances through chiefs of these tribes that the desire of the people is to conclude a permanent peace, these propositions are made in the midst of a campaign. Should they have been seriously unavailingly to have this feature of increased retroactive pay stricken out. I had then the alternative of voting for the bill as it came to me, or else for the necessary expenses of the government because of the objectionable feature. And, in my judgment, to make an extra session of Congress immediately necessary, the cost of which would alone have exceeded the amount of "back pay," and which, for other reasons, I deemed prejudicial to the public interest; and therefore I preferred the bill would pass. It was my undoubted legal right to receive this "back pay," and it rests solely in my own discretion whether I retain it. My hesitancy on this question has chiefly arisen from an unwillingness to even possibly to seem in refusing to keep this money to reflect upon those of my fellow members who personally and conscientiously take a different view of the matter. As, however, I joined in the report of the Committee of Conference, and voted in favor of the bill on the grounds of public duty, so I feel entitled to maintain from the position of official action an item of pecuniary advantage to myself I felt constrained to vote for under the circumstances I have stated, but for which I would not have voted as a separate measure. This remittance is my voluntary and personal act, which I deem the course proper to accompany with the foregoing statement.

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THE DOOMED MODOCS.

The Exterminating Process Commenced in Earnest.

Details of Two Days' Fighting.

The Red Devils Cut Off from Water, and Must Surrender or Abandon their Stronghold.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 13.—The remains of Gen. Canby and Dr. Thomas reached Yreka this evening. A procession of citizens went to receive them. Flags were at half mast. Secretary Deano was charged in effigy at Yreka. Canby's body is in charge of the Masons.

The following additional particulars of the massacre of the Peace Commissioners have been received: Capt. Anderson, who was at Col. Mason's camp in the Modoc stronghold on the Peace Commissioners party, says Lieutenants Sherwood and Doyle were almost out from camp by a white flag. They went four or five hundred yards, when they met what they supposed were only two Indians, who said they wanted to talk to "Little Tyee"—Colonel Mason. They were told they did not want talk, and for the Indians to go back to their camp and they would return to theirs. As they turned around the Indians, four in number, fired upon them, wounding Lieutenant Sherwood in the arm and thigh, the latter being a very serious wound, the bone having been shattered by a bullet. Captain Anderson, who was on duty at the signal station on Hospital Rock, saw plainly the attack upon Colonel Mason's front and telegraphed General Gillem to notify the Peace Commissioners immediately. Colonel Biddle, who was at the signal station of Gillem's headquarters when this message was received, at once placed his field glass upon General Canby, as the party sat together about one mile distant. Very soon the whole party scattered. He followed the General's course with his glass while he ran at every fifty yards, threw up his arms and fell backward dead. Two of the Indians who were following him jumped upon him. One, believed to be Captain Jack, stabbed him in the neck, and he was completely stripped. The Indians then ran back and forth in this purse, containing about $60, was found under his body, the Indians having dropped it. Mr. Meacham was shot in three places, one ball entering at the inner corner of his right eye, another on the side of his head; these are both believed to have lodged within his cranium, and the third passed through the right forearm. He also received a cut in his left arm and a scalp wound five inches in length. He was found about thirty yards from the spot where the slaughter began, in a direction opposite to that taken by Gen. Canby. He was entirely stripped, and bewildered in mind. The capture of spent an hour with him yesterday morning. He was conscious and in no pain. Meacham says he thinks he shot Schonchin in the abdomen, and blood was found which indicated that one of the Indians had been wounded. The soldiers who were ready started on a double quick immediately upon the firing of the shots, and met Dyer and Riddle and his wife before they were half way to camp. The Indians retired to their retreat about six yards in advance of the soldiers, who followed them half a mile beyond the murder ground. Then the Indians rallied till dark, and were withdrawn, as they were not provided with supplies. Mortar shells were shooting into the Indian camp yesterday and during last night. I find it will be impossible, owing to the nature of the ground, to surround the Indians with a large force. Our loss to-day is two killed and four wounded.

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The patriotism of some of the honorary Commissioners to the Vienna Exposition has given out. Their representatives have arrived here and are quite embarrassing. The Department of State, however, has no way of paying their expenses, were it willing. But, in addition to this, the act of Congress especially prohibits such expenditure on account of this class of Commissioners. It is very amusing to note the suggestions which the gentlemen of Africa's shores have communicated by letter to the Secretary of State in order to ascertain whether their own expenses might be paid out of the public treasury. The Secretary, unfortunately, does not see the matter in the same light, and the persons appointed for the paying positions, The Exposition evidently, in their opinion, will suffer from their absence.

Encouraging the Postmaster System.

The acting Postmaster General has instructed Special Agent Samuel Smith to visit the cities not already supplied, having twenty thousand or more inhabitants, in accordance with the second of the act of March 3, 1873, providing for the extension of the free delivery service. The cities to be visited are Chicago, Ill.; Cincinnati, O.; Cleveland, O.; Patterson, N. J.; Rochester, N. Y.; Kansas City, Mo.; Mobile, Ala.; Fall River, Mass.; Springfield, Mass.; Peoria, Ill.; Covington, Ky.; Quincy, Ill.; Evansville, Ind.; Oswego, N. Y.; Elizabeth, N. J.; Savannah, Ga.; Memphis, Tenn.; Camden, N. J.; Davenport, Iowa, and St. Paul, Minn. Special Agent Smith will proceed South first.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Reported Murder of Sir Samuel Baker and Wife in Africa.

LONDON, April 17.—A painful rumor comes from Alexandria to the effect that Sir Samuel Baker and wife have been murdered in the interior of Africa by the natives. Sir Samuel, accompanied by his wife, took the Egyptian expedition up the Nile.

LONDON, April 17.—The rumor of the murder of Sir Samuel Baker and wife in Africa causes much uneasiness at the foreign office. The government has received no information whatever in relation to the occurrence. Earl Granville has telegraphed to Alexandria making inquiry into the origin of the report.

Critical Illness of the Pope Again Reported.

ROME, April 17.—The Pope is still suffering, and it is known there is no improvement in his condition to-day. Persons who have been admitted into the presence of His Holiness make the most contradictory reports in relation to his illness. The Italian government exhibits anxiety in relation to the malady of the Holy Father. A courier has left the Vatican to-night for Spain, with instructions to call a halt or break in that country should the Modocs make their escape from the Spanish lines. Troops are also deployed in open skirmish order and advanced slowly under such cover as the rocks afforded. On the right the troops crept along the bluff, from the right bank of which came the straggling shots, while a few fell around us from the left hand. Our skirmishers were supported by reserves until we arrived at short range, when a severe volley was fired, from the top of the Modoc stronghold. The fire was very hot, thirty Indians posted. Their fire was heavy. After standing about fifteen minutes, the order to charge was given, and the troops made a rush up the most deafening yells from the Modocs. Such was the rapidity of the onslaught that the troops were in them before they knew it, and in a few minutes we were masters of the situation, capturing all their camps. Our troops have been driven from their stronghold. The Lava Bed is ours, and the Modocs are now guerrillas. During the afternoon we could see smoke from south of the Lava Bed, indicating plainly that the Modocs were traveling toward Willow Springs, on the old emigrant road, or for the country between Clear and Goose Lakes. The cavalry started for the country east of the old emigrant road some time this evening.

The total loss in three days' fight is ten wounded and five killed. Both wings of troops are in excellent spirits and anxious to pursue the enemy. Captain Egan was wounded in the arm, but would not leave the field. Both wings of troops are in excellent spirits and anxious to pursue the enemy. Captain Egan was wounded in the arm, but would not leave the field. Both wings of troops are in excellent spirits and anxious to pursue the enemy. Part of them occupy the Lava Bed now, and will prevent any Modocs from escaping that way.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—Late dispatches from Yreka, last night, say that eight Modocs are known to have been killed in the fight yesterday. The cavalry and Warm Spring allies, mounted, have been furnished with rations and sent in pursuit of the Modocs, who have gone in a southeasterly course from the Lava Bed. It is feared that the band will divide up and do great harm to the settlers. A captured squaw says that John Schonchin, who was wounded by Meacham, died of his wounds. Scar-faced Charley had a leg broken in the fight, and while trying to crawl off was dispatched by troop K. The Warm Spring Indians found half a dozen wounded Modocs hidden under some rocks, and scalped them. A correspondent had his ear clipped by a Modoc bullet. A citizen of Yreka, while driving two horses up to help a battery, was killed, stripped, scalped, and a piece of the stomach cut out. The Modocs left his body was recovered and buried by the troops.

To the present time no courier has arrived at Yreka, James Wheeler arrived from that point. There is considerable uneasiness among the settlers regarding the Modocs getting out of the Lava Bed, fearing that they may go over to Shasta valley. Mrs. Meacham, wife of the Commissioner, who was shot through the face, passed Yreka this morning to go farther than Baits, as it thought unsafe for her to proceed farther. She then went to Linkville. Mr. Meacham's condition was favorable at last accounts. Nearly all the horses at Baits were down with the epizootic, and the disease is spreading to a proper look out had been kept. A gross error must have been made in estimating the speed of the Modocs.

The Commissioner says: It is a well authenticated fact that during the spring months there is a continuous northerly set of currents on this coast. We have attendant evidence of the existence of an offshore current in the fact that strips would be blown speed must have been from incompetency or carelessness in calculating on the part of those according to the log.

The remains of Capt. Williams, in leaving the dock at midnight, is condemned as imprudent and calculated to create the impression in the minds of the officers and country that their services are not to make extra vigilance imperative. At that time the lights on the Modoc stronghold could be seen, and it seems to have been culpable rashness for him, under the circumstances, to order the ship to be run towards land for three hours at such a rate of speed, without taking precaution to guard against any possible error in his estimation of his position, as in the event of the fight, which ought to have been over at daylight, a heavy fog was drifting and becoming visible in that time, had the very ordinary precaution that ought to be used in such cases been observed. Running in for three hours at intervals to the masthead, the disaster would in all human probability have been prevented. But the greatest, and by far the most important error, is found in the fact that the lead was never used, although the ship was in soundings for eight hours before she struck. This is a neglect of duty for which there can be positively no excuse. Every officer and seaman laid down upon the chart, that had the lead been used proper attention, the ships safety in passing would be guaranteed, even had the night been one on which the lights could not possibly have been seen. The lead was constantly used in the Northern California and Southern Oregon. The people in Klamath and Delnorte counties, however, have become so accustomed to the presence of armed citizens left for the front this morning to bring in the remains of the soldiers, that no excitement was manifested. Business and public schools passed as usual. About three hundred in number. The coffins are wrapped in the national colors and strewn with wreaths of flowers. Expressions of great sorrow are visible in every countenance.

General Gillem had sent an order to Col. Mason to stir the Indians up on his side, and he let into them with a vengeance, distracting their attention and materially assisting the soldiers. The attack was a gallant one. Meanwhile we extricated our wounded, four, none were killed. Captain Egan had his horse fought under him, and did engaged. Captain Egan was wounded in the arm, but would not leave the field. Both wings of troops are in excellent spirits and anxious to pursue the enemy. Part of them occupy the Lava Bed now, and will prevent any Modocs from escaping that way.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1873.

THE total shipments of coal and coke from this port, by the Ohio river, from January 1st to April 23d, were 30,260,000 bushels. This is a great increase over the similar period in any former year.

NUMEROUS wise men are now writing letters to the newspapers, showing conclusively how the Richmond swtich disaster might have been prevented. What a pity that they never think of those things until after the damage is done.

THE editor of the Pottsville *Transcript*, in noticing the death of old JACK CUMMINGS, of Snyder county, wrote that he was well known as an "old line" Democrat; but the compositor, in setting the notice up, transformed "old line" into "old lying." To poor old CUMMINGS this was very unfair; but there are many others with whom it would be a distinction without a difference.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact of a winter of almost unprecedented length and severity, followed by an unusually cold, dreary spring, the crop prospects in the great agricultural districts of the West are reported by the papers of that region as being quite encouraging, and it is thought the yield of all cereals will be so abundant that the great thoroughfares of transportation will be taxed to their utmost to bring the harvest to market.

REVOLUTIONS, whether religious or otherwise, do not move backwards. The "Old Catholics" of Germany have resolved to proceed to the election of a Bishop of Cologne in the early part of June. This, of course, shuts the door against any "back steps" or reconciliation with Rome. As they have gone too far now to recede, the question is, will they seek new affiliations in order to strengthen themselves, or elect to travel their own way, solitary and alone?

EVERYWHERE the subject of local indebtedness is receiving earnest attention. There seems to be a general agreement throughout the country that it is time to stop piling up municipal debts. This is a good sign. The mania for "improvements" has involved the people of hundreds of counties in the country in liabilities that will harrass them for years to come. It is an encouraging indication that the masses are beginning to count the cost and look the facts squarely in the face.

ONE cannot eat his cake and have it too. Among the items which went to make up the $12,000,000 worth of foreign goods imported at New York last week were the following: Jewelry $103,097; toys, $3,621; tobacco, $133,534; cigars, $91,619; fancy goods, $42,532; fans $29,063; ale, $10,677; brandy, $77,835; beer, $3,320; cordials, $6,445; champagne, $53,300; gin, $2,985; porter, $4,238; rum, $312; vinegar, $366; whisky, $2,510; wines, $84,495. After the feast comes the paying of the piper. These "items" are almost as suggestive as FALSTAFF'S famous memoranda anent his bread and "sack."

THE report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of this State shows its total indebtedness at the close of last month to have been $27,127,122. Of this amount $4,428,500 bears coin interest; $100,712 bears no interest at all, and interest has been stopped on $175,112. On the 31st ult. there was in the State Treasury a balance of $1,920,752, and there were redeemed last month loans to the amount of $30,874. "Results"—it cannot be too often remarked—"are the best rhetoric," a saying which, under the circumstances, we take particular pleasure in commending to the careful reflection of its author—the Philadelphia *Press*.

IT SEEMS likely that the problem of cheap telegraphy will after all, be solved rather through the processes of scientific invention than by the interposition of government. The number of recent improvements in the art of telegraphy, and especially in the application of an earth day, of single lines of telegraph where three or four are now used. One inventor has lately discovered the art of making one wire perform the work of three or more, and scientific gentlemen connected with the Patent Office are fully of the opinion that in less than two years from this time only one wire will be used between the principal cities of the country. So much the better.

THE receipts of crude oil at this port from January 1 to April 19, 1873, were 526,000 barrels against 271,000 in the same time last year —nearly double; and the exports of refined oil were 187,000 barrels against 145,000 last year. The highest receipts in any previous year were 347,000 barrels. This increase is owing, mainly, to the increased facilities for shipping afforded by the Allegheny Valley Railroad, but it may also be taken to indicate that this trade is at last gravitating to its natural center, and that the efforts to divert it to Cleveland and New York will not succeed. The average weekly receipts from the oil region have been about 33,000 barrels, or 5,500 barrels daily.

THE low price of corn in the United States seems to have created a large foreign demand for that staple instead of wheat. According to a late report of the Bureau of Statistics, there was exported 51,931,282 bushels for the fifteen months ended September 30, 1872, against 26,852,712 bushels in the similar period to September 30, last year. The difference in the present rates of wheat and corn is considerably greater than it was during the period to which these statistics refer, and it is probable that the present summer will show a still larger increase in the foreign consumption of the latter important breadstuff staple.

HERE is one of the effects of the "striking" mania of the past year or two. The amount paid for building improvements in New York this year will be $5,000,000 less than was paid out last, which in turn was a reduction of $5,000,000 over the year before it. Thus the largest city of the continent, which should have been advancing with rapid strides in this one great evidence of municipal prosperity, has fallen back $10,000,000 in two years, as measured by this class of investments. For this state of things the unsettled condition of the labor market, and the unreliability of workmen, are said by the papers of that city to be chiefly responsible. The question—and we commend it to every there would do well to thoughtfully consider it—is, whether the laboring classes are not paying a good deal to dearly for their whistle?

SENATOR BAYARD, of Delaware, voted for the back pay steal, but has since refunded his share of it to the U. S. Treasury. He tries, in his refunding letter to the Treasury, to justify both his vote and his action in refusing to keep the money he voted to himself, being unable, apparently, to see that refunding the money is virtually an arraignment of his vote. No act can be both right and wrong at the same time. If Senator BAYARD was right in voting for the back pay, he was right in taking it and keeping it, and it could not be a matter of right that he should refund the money unless his vote was wrong. It is, however, too much to expect public men to acknowledge openly that their votes were wrong; and the public must therefore be content, in this case, to accept such silent acknowledgements as are conveyed in the refunding process which Senator BAYARD has adopted.

AN IMPORTANT decision will be rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States next week, concerning the question whether railroads have the power to enforce stipulations made in any case with their passengers, that in case of injuries by accidents to them the railroads shall not be liable therefor. It is usual with all railroads to print on free passes a disclaimer against liability for damages to the person accepting, but it is now to be tested whether liability for damages caused by the carelessness and negligence of a company can by any means be avoided. A decision is also to be given touching the constitutionality of the seventh section of the act of Congress of May 31, 1870, known as the Enforcement act. That section provides that if, in carrying out the conspiracy prohibited and made a felonious offense by the first section of the act, the party commit any other felony or crime, made such by the laws of the State, and is convicted of the conspiracy, the Court may inflict the judgment which such laws prescribe.

OF THE eleven State Senators whose terms expire this year, eight are Democrats and three Republicans, those holding over standing fifteen Republicans, six Democrats and one Liberal. The three Republican Senators are Messrs. ANDERSON, of Allegheny, DELAMATER, of Crawford, and WANDELL, of Chester. As all of these are decidedly Republican counties, there is scarcely any possibility of a change in the political character of that body, even should all the other eight districts elect Democrats, which is not likely. The Sixth district, Montgomery county, the Seventh, Bucks and Northampton, the Eighth, Berks, and the Eleventh, Lehigh and Carbon, may all be set down as certainly Democratic; the Third, part of Philadelphia, the Tenth, Schuylkill, and the Twenty-second, Center, Juniata, Mifflin and Huntingdon, as doubtful and close; and the Seventeenth, Snyder, Perry, Northumberland and Union, now represented by A. H. DILL, Democrat, as certainly Republican. The Third and the Twenty-second, however, may safely be conceded to the Democrats; and the Tenth, Schuylkill, will depend on the nominations made by the parties respectively, and their relation to the miners, who control results in that county. With the proper man the Republicans can carry it.

THE LOUISIANA MURDERERS.

We do not find, in any Democratic paper, any demand for the utter extinction of the white race in Louisiana, because of the wholesale murder of negroes by whites in Grant parish, in that State; and we look in vain through them, also, for any denunciation of the heinous and appalling crime committed by these bloodthirsty and treacherous Louisianians. These same Democratic papers were loud and constant in their calls for vengeance upon the whole Indian race because a handful of Modocs had cruelly and treacherously murdered those with whom they were holding peaceful relations; but they excuse, justify, and in some cases applaud the hundred-fold worse treachery of the Louisiana assassins.

The difference is easily accounted for. The Louisiana cut-throats vote the Democratic ticket and belong to the Democratic party, and the Indians not only have no vote, but the government is pursuing a course of kindness toward them, the failure of which the Democrats would be glad to hail. To stand by the Democratic thugs of Louisiana is, therefore, a duty equal to that of opposing the Indian policy of the administration; and both duties are discharged with an ardor which is in no wise damped by the fact that a defense of wholesale murder is as much required in the one case as a denunciation of it in the other. It is all wrong, in their eyes, for Indians to murder any one; but it is all right for Louisiana Democrats to murder negroes by the hundred, to roast them alive, and to slaughter them after they had surrendered as prisoners of war.

The Modoc massacre is not for one moment to be compared, in atrocity, to the Louisiana massacre. Two men were treacherously slain by the Modocs; over one hundred were as treacherously put to death by the Louisiana Jacks of Louisiana. The men killed at the Lava Bed were striving to negotiate a peace with the men who slew them; and those killed at Grant Court House were killed after surrendering in good faith to the villains who butchered them. The Fort Pillow massacre is the only parallel to it: and the event proves that perfidiousness and bloody cruelty are not confined to the Indian race. There are white men as well as copper-colored Modocs; and the former being more numerous than the latter (at least in Louisiana), simply differ from their Indian congeners in doing things on a grander scale.

For our part we have no sympathy with murder or murderers anywhere. The masked midnight murderers known as Ku-Klux in the South, the bloody-handed assassins who uphold the MCENERY government in Louisiana by wholesale slaughter, and the cheap-Jack murderers of Oregon are all alike hateful and objects of governmental vengeance. It may suit the short sighted politicians of the Democratic party to stand by the Ku-Klux and their red-handed brethren in Louisiana, while denouncing the Modocs for crimes no worse; but the vision of a justice-loving and murder-hating people is too keen to be blinded by any partisan considerations in passing judgment on such cases. Murder is murder, no matter by whom or for what purpose committed; and the blood of the slain negroes at Grant Court House in Louisiana calls as loudly from the ground for vengeance as does that of Gen. CANBY. It has been heard, and heard effectually, in one case, shall it go unheeded in the other?

EXPERIENCE is the most competent of all schoolmasters. Remarking on the wonderful development of the metallurgy of the United States during the last ten or twelve years, the London *Engineering and Iron Trades Guardian*, leading organ of the iron interests of Great Britain—has the following suggestive observations:

"The present aspect of the iron question in the United States possesses much interest for the iron trade of Great Britain. So long as the Americans could obtain supplies of rails from this country at a reasonable price, they did not trouble themselves with a certain freedom; but in exact proportion as British rails have risen in price, they have applied themselves with increased energy to the development of their own metallurgical industry. Several appointments have been made by which the Americans devoted so much energy to the working of American coal and the production of American iron as in 1871 and 1872; and just as coal and iron have become cheaper in this country, so have they risen in the working of American coal and the production of American iron been still further stimulated. The result of this new order of things in the United States is reflected in the rapid increase in the American consumption of British railway iron. In the first two months of 1872 we sent the Americans 88,436 tons of our railway iron; in the corresponding period of this year, the corresponding exports sank to 42,000 tons, showing the startling declension of 59,529 tons."

And yet there are people in this country, claiming to be political economists and thinkers, who are everlastingly clamoring for the overthrow of the wise policy under which this remarkable development and expansion of our home resources and industries have taken place. The idiot who killed the goose that laid the golden egg was not more shortsighted than are these blind free trade devotees who, for the sake of a mere theoretic abstraction, would convulse business, derange industry and destroy values without so much as a compunction. "If," further says the journal from which we have quoted:

"The Americans had only Great Britain to rely upon as regards their rail supplies, the construction of American railroads would probably have now to be, in a great measure, suspended. The American energy has been equal to the occasion, and we now have statistical evidence of the fact that two-thirds of the rails required for American railroads have been made of late in the United States themselves."

A most clear and forcible statement of the disastrous results which would inevitably have followed a free trade dependence on the mother country in the matter of iron production—a result which would have been nothing less than the dwarfing of our power as a nation. Is this what our free trade agitators are plotting for? It looks like it.

SOME interesting statistics concerning the mining and fishery interests of the United States are furnished by advance sheets of that part of the census report which relates thereto. There is no profession of entire accuracy in them, but they are sufficiently correct to serve for purposes of comparison. The Commissioner speaks of various returns made to prove the reports of assistant marshals. With regard to iron ore and coal, the reports in the main compare satisfactorily with information received from other sources, except in the case of iron ore in Pennsylvania, where there is a marked deficiency, owing to the failure of assistant marshals to record separately the raising and smelting of ores. He estimates this deficiency at probably not less than eight or nine hundred thousand tons; yet without adding this estimated deficiency, the mining interest of Pennsylvania presents an astounding exhibit, showing a product of 76,303,330 tons, an amount nearly equal to the aggregate production of all the other States of the Union. In regard to quarrying, the statistics are not susceptible of any test. The reports embrace only the larger quarries of the country, and have, in general, taken no account of such as are worked irregularly and for local purposes only. With respect to gold and silver mining the Commissioner speaks of the untrustworthiness of statements, the out-of-the-way and spasmodic production, and the necessity for scientific knowledge on the part of the assistant marshal—a thing that could not be expected of political appointees. These are difficulties which make the census about gold and silver mining the least to be depended on of the lot. The Mining Commissioner's report places these products at $61,500,000; while that of the Census Commissioner fixes it at $26,452,652; a difference of $35,047,348. The products of the fisheries of the United States are stated as follows: Hands employed, 20,504; value of products, $11,096,522.

WE GAVE, in Tuesday's COMMERCIAL, the gist of an action pending in a New York Court for the recovery of the amount of a promissory note which was claimed to have been certified by mistake at the bank at which it was made payable, and which was passed through the Clearing House and paid the same day. On the succeeding day the plaintiff's cashier called on the defendant and explained that the note had been certified under a mistake; that the account of the maker with the plaintiff was overdrawn, and requested permission to erase the certification, and at the same time demanded a return of the money, which the defendant refused. Judgment has since been given. The point was raised that the collecting bank was not the proper defendant; that it acted only as the agent in making the collection, and that the owner of the note, if any one, was liable. The Court, however, ruled one, was liable. The Court, however, ruled the point not tenable, on the ground that there was no proof that the defendant disclosed its principal until after a demand for the return of the money had been made. The demand of the plaintiff for a return of the money and to be allowed to erase the certification was in effect, though not in terms, a notice not to pay the proceeds to the payee. The Court further held that, inasmuch as the teller of the plaintiff, when he certified the note, did not know that the account of the maker had been overdrawn, the certification was not such a voluntary payment as to defeat the right of recovery. Judgment was rendered for the full amount claimed. The principle involved in the decision is of considerable interest to the mercantile classes generally.

PERSONAL.

The friends of Manton Marble of the New York *World*, are seriously alarmed about that gentleman's condition. Their fears apprehensions seem about to be realized, his malady threatening to result in a softening of the brain. It is hoped, however, that a period of rest may restore his health and intellectual activity.

The poet Tennyson has written to an admiring and truly loyal Canadian that hopes to "live to see England and her colonies absolutely one, with as complete a reciprocity of the free gifts of God as there is between one country and another in the mother country." This may be a noble sentiment, but it is bad politics economy.

The little boy saved from the wreck of the Atlantic was not saved for nothing. Glory waits him. Also money. Together with a giraffe, a fat woman, elephants and other curiosities, he is offered the proud privilege of traveling with Mr. Barnum. It is gratifying to know that the terms proposed by Mr. Barnum are $20,000 and the right to sell his photograph.

Gen. George B. Williams, of Japan, is to be married to Miss Peak, of California, in Paris on the 30th of this month. He went from Indiana to Japan about two years ago to form a Bureau of Internal Revenue similar to our own, and was subsequently secured by the Japanese government as counsellor in the Treaty Revision Commission and for negotiating commercial relations between Japan and the Western nations.

One of the honors which Chief Justice Chase received during his recent visit to Europe was the conferring of naming a city. The largest and wealthiest colony in the Southern States, from the North, is settled in Mecklenburg county, Va., not far from the North Carolina border. This settlement is now incorporated as Chase City, and a deputation of its citizens waited upon the Chief Justice, who promised them a visit.

A tombstone at Saratoga, N. Y., remembers, testifies and warns thus: "Emma, dau't of Abraham and Minnie C., and wife of Theodore S., died Aug. 10, 1868. Æ 26 yrs., leaving five children; married too young against her father's will. Single women take warning."

It seems that instead of General Gordon being the first ex-Confederate to preside over the Senate, that General Ransom, of North Carolina, was a month ahead of him in the matter.

Senator Sprague, of Rhode Island, is in Columbia, Ga., looking after his canal interests. He will hold a consultation with local capitalists there, and it is expected that something will be done, and the development of the water power, so long delayed, will be at once commenced in earnest.

A Louisiana paper states that a Mr. J. C. W. Richardson, who has been for some years teaching a school in the parish of Ascension, by the will of the late Horace Greeley has been left the neat little sum of three thousand dollars.

Ernest Longfellow, the second son of the poet, is much commended in Boston for his growing skill as a landscape painter.

The Academy of St. Petersburg has recently admitted to its honorary membership William Cullen Bryant and Henry Wordsworth Longfellow. The occasion was one of much pomp and ceremony, nearly all of the eighty regular members of the Academy being present, and the royal family being represented by the most cultivated Prince of the House of Romanoff, the Grand Duke Constantine. Addresses of eulogy and celebration were delivered by the most illustrious of the literati of Russia, and the occasion must be deemed by every American interested in the higher literature of his country one to be celebrated with pride. The Academy was founded a hundred years ago by the second Catherine.

Major Powell, of Ill., well-known in connection with the exploration of the Grand Canon of the Colorado, has received an appointment in the Indian service in connection with his geological survey, which he proposes to continue the present season.

OHIO NEWS.

The first re-union of the Thirteenth Ohio Infantry will be held in Unrichsville on the 2d of May, 1873, on the tenth anniversary of the assault on Vicksburg.

The St. Clairsville *Chronicle* says: We are informed that quite a respectable young lady residing near Belmont, stopped a few days since with her father's hoesler, and that the twain was made one at a "shanty" on the railroad.

William Sprague, a member of Waverly, drowned himself on Thursday morning about five o'clock in Crooked creek, near that place. He was a hard drinking man, and was laboring under a fit of boring pain at the time he left his home. He was aged fifty-seven, and leaves a wife and four children. So says a Chillicothe dispatch.

The father of Hon. S. S. Cox, Ezekiel T. Cox, aged seventy-eight, the only surviving Senator of the Legislature of 1831-2. S. S. Cox's grandfather was Judge Samuel Sullivan, who was in 1818 Senator, from Muskingum county, and was, while Senator, elected Insurer of State on motion of General Harrison, who sat beside him.

A company of bird fanciers is about to be formed in Sandusky for the purpose of sending a man to Europe, to bring to this country a number of excellent varieties of birds, which are native to that climate but seldom met with here.

The will of Mrs. Keziah Davis, of Pike county, which disposes of a matter of a million and more worth of property, is to be contested, on the ground of a want of authority in Mrs. Davis to dispose of the property in that way.

Extensive new veins of coal have recently been discovered near Ironton, Lawrence county, and the people are very much excited about it. They feel much richer than they did before they knew what was under the surface.

Mr. C. C. Cheadle, of Windsor township, Morgan county, and owner of a peach orchard of 2,000 trees, thinks that he will not have a peach in his entire orchard.

A gang of counterfeiters have been discovered at Straitsville.

New coal fields are to be developed in Medina county.

The young lady students in Buchtel College have organized a base ball club, and devised a uniform consisting of a blue jacket and red Zouave Bloomer costume.

The Massillon *Amerikan* says that four miles north of Massillon, last Friday, Henry Raymond and his son Rinehart were engaged in a fight, Raymond carrying a stone weighing about two fous, and that dog a large hole beside the stone, and were about to get out the stone when Rinehart said that if Raymond's creditors will lose in the end we are not advised.

The Wadsworth *Enterprise* has the following: A child of John S. Wolf, aged about two years, last week fell down a well thirty feet deep, at the residence of the family near Patterson's Corners in Guilford township. The alarm was given by an older child who saw the accident, and as the mother was at the other end of the house, the child descended the well, stepping down the wall. The child was fortunately but little hurt, and stood in the water chin deep until called for help. The mother rushed in to the arm and ascended the wall again, reaching the top in safety.

STATE POLITICS.

The Williamsport *Standard* recommends the nomination of L. A. Mackey, Esq., of Lock Haven, as the Democratic candidate for Governor. He satisfies:

William H. Nesbit, a colored man, resident in Altoona, and President of the Equal Rights League, is announced as a candidate for the Representative in the Legislature from Blair county.

The Pottsville *Journal says*: It is said that Joel B. McCammant, Esq., of Shenandoah, will be a candidate for Congressional honors in the new Schuylkill-Northumberland district. Mr. McCammant is to be thought by many leading Democrats that Randall will not run the risk of throwing away the chances of his election next November, and that it is the way of trying for Congressional honors against McCammant.

Mr. Colfax Not a Candidate for Congress.

[From the South Bend (Ind.) Register.]

"Who will be the Republican candidate," is what the Chicago *Tribune* says, referring to Mr. Colfax, in a recent issue, but knowing full well that its authority for that statement exists only in its own malignant purpose to injure that gentleman's standing before the country. Mr. Colfax has been on our streets every day for the past six weeks, in our office nearly every day, and has conversed with hundreds of all parties. The fact that the Valparaiso *Messenger*, Gesbert *Democrat*, Ligonier *Banner*, Warsaw *Union*, Democratic papers of Northern Indiana, urged that he should be sent back to Congress from his old district, has, of course, caused considerable conversation about it. But we have heard him reply repeatedly and uniformly that he did not want any office of any kind—that for the first time in twenty years he belonged to his family and himself instead of the public, and enjoyed the rest and quiet it brought to him too much to risk consenting that his position should be changed. The Chicago *Tribune* last fall insisted that he "wanted" to be United States Senator, when every one here of all parties knew the reverse to be the truth; and it is persisted in this untruth until Mr. Colfax had at last to contradict it positively over his own signature.

GEORGE SARRACHER, a German, committed suicide in Cumberland, Md., a few days since, leaving behind him a letter in which he says: "I am a native of Germany, and they will tell you that invention is the mother of necessity. Nine inventors out of ten die poor; the other tenth die mad.

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GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

And now the epizootic threatens to add its paralyzing influence to the complications of the Modoc war. It has arrived within a day's march of the camp, and will probably next fasten itself upon the horses of the couriers and the cavalry.

Georgia releases stray pigs from pounds only on writs of *homine replegiando*. This is the first time the Democratic government of Georgia has recognized *equal* rights.

Arrangements are making by the various French societies of this country to celebrate the approaching evacuation of France by the Germans, and Lafayette's birthday, the 5th of September, is agreed upon as the day.

The Boards of County Supervisors in Michigan are taking steps to have the fallen leaves and other combustible materials in the woods burned before they get too dry, and so prevent destructives fires later in the season. The suggestion is worth considering elsewhere.

The New York *World* is of opinion that there are "some races among whom lying is practiced as a pastime, and pursued as a legitimate and not unhonored profession." And now we patiently await the *World* man's autobiography.

It is computed that between going on a trip from New York to San Francisco and on a tour to Europe, going over the whole beaten track of the continent, the European trip is the cheapest by $73.

The disappearance of the ice in the rivers and lakes is bringing to view the bodies of numerous persons whose mysterious disappearances have been reported at intervals through the past winter.

John Anderson's gift of Pekinese Island to Professor Agassiz will lead to the foundation of what is called in Europe a *zoological* station. Students will be enabled to do practical work instead of learning formulas about biology out of books.

The heathen are beginning to find punishment for their sins. A New York patent medicine man has flooded India with bills relating reasons why his concoction should be used by the natives, and that none may escape he has printed them in Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Mahratti and other languages.

It is a pleasing indication of the drift of public opinion that in a recent election contest in sandusky, Ohio, it was regarded as the best claim of a candidate that he had subscribed $5,000 to establish steel works, aided the railroad and coal interests of the place, and insured the building of a blast furnace in the city.

The call for the Ohio Republican State Convention well says that the importance of thorough local organization cannot be too strongly urged; nor can this great auxiliary to final success be too early attended to.

The great State of Texas embraces a territory of 500,000 square miles, or 320,000,000 acres of arable land, much of which is unsurpassed by any territory of like extent on the continent. There are yet in the valley of the Rio Grande region, with a climate mild and genial as that of Italy, many millions of acres of unoccupied.

An ex-rebel soldier has just had returned to him by mail a Bible which was taken from him when he was captured in the charge on Fort Saunders, at Knoxville, Tenn., nearly ten years ago.

When a man reforms from drink and begins to take care of himself, he generally remarks that he is going to build up his constitution anew. Probably it was with a view to this that for years he kept accumulating bricks in the back yard.

Perhaps the most curious and satisfactory phase of the New York gasmen's strike is the effect that it has had upon saloon keepers in the vicinity of the company's works. It being a rule of the Union that to intoxicating liquors shall be drunk by strikers, the liquor houses in that locality have been very unprofitable since the beginning of the strike.

That palladium of our liberties, as most writers have termed it, and that legal curse, as a few consider it, the jury system, turns out to be of Norman-French, not Saxon origin.

A German composer has invented a new musical instrument, termed the proyhone. The sound, which is produced from ignited small jets of gas, surrounded by glass tubes, is said to bear a close resemblance to the timbre of the human voice.

The healing of the world

Is lit in hamlets and in cities each separate star

Seems nothing, but a myriad scattered stars

Break up the night, and make it beautiful.

In the matter of cant, from which no new practice has been introduced, with satisfactory results, of turning off one end comically, and boring out the end of the tube to which it is to be united at the same angle, the end of one tube being thus inserted into the other, and therefore fitting with more than ordinary exactness, the junction being effected in this way very readily, and the joint being perfectly tight.

Does prot-ection protect? Since 1860, Maine has more than trebled the number of her manufacturing establishments and the nature of their products. It is estimated that there are now fifty-two thousand different manufactories in that State giving employment to over 40,000 persons, the aggregate products amounting to some $80,000,000 yearly.

The Queen of England is about to create an order for those who have distinguished themselves in art, science and literature. This will do away with the republic of letters.

There are now no spots on the sun large enough to be visible with an eye-piece of low magnifying power. We may count on a tolerable exemption from the interesting disturbers of our meteorological peace for five or six years to come.

The oldest stove in the United States is one which warms the hall of the Capitol in Richmond, Virginia. It was made in England, and sent to Richmond in 1770, and warmed the House of Burgesses for sixty years, before it was removed to its present location, where it has been for thirty years, and is not yet stove in.

A Connecticut kitten has been born with seven legs and two tails, supposed to be specifically related to the cat tribe with nine tails.

Half a million pounds—or almost $2,500,000, gold—are to be expended on the fortifications of Halifax, this year, by the British government of their North American possessions by the Great British people.

The New York Legislature has done one sensible thing, at least. It has passed a law making it a misdemeanor to point a gun at any person, whether it is loaded or not.

Vermont people are very suspicious of each other. A man in that State had recently to exhume his wife's body, in order to disprove the story that he had cut off her hair and sold it while she was being prepared for the grave.

"Scientific men over Kansas is underpinned by piles of fossil elephants." This looks reasonable, for she has been herself an elephant on the hands of the country for the last dozen years.

A Virginia paper sings the praises of somebody who sent seven sons to the Confederate army, fought himself in his turn, and now is one of the oldest men in the home guards "till Grantism was inaugurated at Appomatox C. H." That last phrase is true, if it is a Southern Democratic paper that uses it.

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STATE NEWS.

There are, at a Harrisburg foundry, four ancient bells, brought from Japan, having been used in the temples there six centuries ago. They are covered with curiously wrought inscriptions, supposed to relate to heathen mythology, and representations of idols worshipped hundreds of years ago. The bells are to be broken up and recast.

Good accounts of the growing crops come from Snyder county.

Some fourteen children attending the public schools in Milton went home in one day last week, sick with the measles. The disease is spreading over the town rapidly.

The new Sunbury boom is pronounced a success. It has caught and now holds over 7,000,000 feet of logs, and when the river falls it is intended to be filled with nearly 20,000,000 feet.

Seven persons died in Philadelphia, last week, who had lived from eighty to ninety-two years.

John A. Merzell, a justice of the peace in York, was stabbed and severely wounded by a drunken ruffian named Berton, a few days ago.

Seventy-nine new iron works were erected in this State last year, and in New York but seven.

The *Centennial* is the name of a monthly journal just started in Philadelphia. Its object and contents are indicated by the title.

The Butler *Herald* advocates the erection of oil refineries in that place. There is plenty of coal in the hills, and all that is wanted is capital and energy to push the work of improvement forward.

A Crispen of Mercer, being a suitor who went beyond his last, in mercenary mood has sued the young woman who jilted him for breach of promise, laying his damages at $2,000.

The Lake Erie Dental Association will meet in Greenville on the first Tuesday of May, and continue in session three days.

The West Chester *News* thus moralizes on the exhibition of a circus company given on a lot formerly devoted to purposes of sepulture: "The changes incidental to the lapse of time have been recently and strikingly illustrated in the vicinity of this city, in which a certain lot of ground has been dedicated in West Chester, Pa., for burying purposes of course, established the correspondence will probably be followed by some members, at this session, and some division of sentiment is apprehended.

The Lancaster *Express* says: About ten o'clock one of the most thrilling accidents occurred in the village of Spring Garden, one mile west of Mount Joy. The facts of the case are these: A little two year old son of Jacob Shank, who resides and serves in the home guards "till Grantism was inaugurated at Appomatox C. H." That last phrase is true, if it is a Southern Democratic paper that uses it.

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The Philadelphia Architectural Iron Company, of South Chester, commenced active operations on Thursday afternoon. They ran off 36,000 pounds of metal of the finest quality the first day.

One man has a contract for the erection of forty houses in Hartford.

Hon. Isaac Slenkr died at his residence in New Berlin, Union county, a few days since, and was buried on Monday Mr. Slenker was born in Union county in September, 1791. He attended school with late James F. Linnicup., and was the senior of all that gentleman's students. In 1836 he was elected to the state Senate and served the constituency of his district in 1838

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, April 26, 1873.

PRESBYTERIAL.

Meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery—Candidates for Licensure—Rotary Eldership—Entertainment of Presbytery.

The Pittsburgh Presbytery of the Re-United Presbyterian Church met in the Bellefield Church, (Rev. D. T. Carnahan, pastor,) Fourteenth ward, Tuesday morning at eleven o'clock. This Presbytery (formerly known as the Ohio Presbytery) is a lineal descendant of the "Old Redstone," which was organized in the close of the last century. On the reconstruction of the church, after the union was consummated in this city in 1858 between the old and new School Assemblies, it received its present name. It has some fifty-six ministerial members on its roll and is one of the largest Presbyteries in the world.

Rev. F. R. Wooting, of Mansfield, opened the proceedings yesterday by a sermon founded on Deuteronomy xxi chap., 11th and 12th verses, in which he discussed God's providential care over his people as illustrated by the eagle "stirring up her nest."

After sermon the Rev. R. E. Dunolms was elected Moderator, and Rev. Mr. Kerr temporary clerks. Rev. W. T. Beatty and S. M Henderson are, respectively, stated and permanent Clerks.

Presbytery took a recess for dinner. On resuming business Rev. L. J. Mason, on account of ill health, demitted the pastoral charge of the congregational of Fairview.

Rev. M. N. Cornelius resigned the pastoral charge of the Valley Church with the view of giving his whole time to Oakdale. (Mr. Cornelius leaves for Minnesota this morning, and will remain there during the summer months to recruit his failing health.

The Grace Memorial Church asked Presbytery for an appropriation from the Sustentation Fund of $250. Laid on the table for consideration.

Messrs. Henry McDonald, J. Kelso and Fletcher Hindle, students of Theology, were duly taken in charge by Dr. Howard and others with a view of being licensed to preach the gospel.

A paper, signed by Dr. Carlisle and Robert C. Moore, was presented to Presbytery. It contained a complaint in regard to the election of elders in the Bellefield congregation. The complaint is sometimes called the rotary principle. It set forth that in the month of January last the congregation elected two elders without having resigned or withdrawn, and asked Presbytery to give a judicial answer to the following questions:

1. Is it in accordance with our constitution and confession of faith to elect elders and deacons for a term of years?

2. If it be so, is it sufficient cause for an elder or deacon to resign before the term to permit a congregation to elect for a term of years?

3. Can a congregation elect, for a term of years, one already elected, ordained and installed an elder for life?

A response from Rev. D. T. Carnahan, who presided at the convocation meeting referred to, and the Commissioners to Presbytery, was then read. It was not able paper, but was in explanation, in the overcrowded state of our columns. The substance of it was that the motion pending when the Moderator decided the motion to adjourn out of order, was on the "previous question." He made his decision in accordance with the practice of the Senate and House of the Legislature of Pennsylvania. In reply to the statement referred to as a ground of complaint: It is left optional with congregations whether elders be elected for a definite or indefinite term.

The papers were referred to a special committee, as were also similar ones from the Bloomfield congregation.

Dr. Howard asked for leave of absence during the remaining sessions, on account of the illness of his wife. Granted.

A petition from Bloomfield congregation asking for an appropriation of $250 was presented.

A recess was taken for supper. The evening session was occupied with the hearing of "trial sermons" from candidates for licensure.

We must not omit to mention that the ladies of Bellefield congregation entertained the members of Presbytery and visitors at dinner and tea in a style that would have done credit to the most sumptuous of princely banquets. On both occasions the table was spread with viands as rich and savory as could be served by Delmonico. Everything was done in even a fraction of a term. After witnessing the entertainment, the only conclusion we could come to was that Professor Blot must have been quietly liberating among the pleasant villas and princely chateaus of Bellefield congregation during his culinary art, and that papas' purse strings were open-wide to supply the means. Fourteen tables were waited on their guests with such graceful dignity and greeted them with such bewitching smiles that every person felt perfectly at home. Prominent among the efficient aids of the fair hostesses we noticed Henry Loyd, Esq., one of our iron masters, and A. D. McKee, Esq., the well known dry goods merchant. The entertainment was among the best we have ever participated in.

The Pittsburgh Presbytery of the Re-united Presbyterian Assembly resumed business in the Bellefield church Wednesday morning. Half an hour was spent in devotional exercises.

An appropriation of $250 was made, respectively, to the congregations of the Grace Memorial church and Bloomfield.

The following delegates were appointed to attend the meeting of the General Assembly at Baltimore on the third Thursday of May next: Ministers: Revs. S. R. Lee, D. D., Alexander Clark, and J. Shriver; Alternates: Revs. D. T. Carnahan, Richard Lea and C. V. McKaig; Elders: Messrs. William M. Gibson, Jno. Robert Wilson and Thos. Semple; Alternates: D. S. Williams, Gen. Whitely and B. McClain.

After receiving statistical reports from the various congregations under its care, Presbytery proceeded to the consideration of unfinished records.

The special committee to whom were referred the papers in relation to the rotary eldership and motions in the Bellefield congregation reported as follows:

WHEREAS, The complaint of J. D. Carlisle and R. C. Moore is not a complaint against a judicatory but against the congregation, if it be not, in opinion of your committee, judicial business, and we therefore recommend its dismissal.

If permitted, we would recommend that question first (see yesterday's COMMERCIAL) be answered by a reference to the action of the last General Assembly, which is as follows:

"The Assembly is not to be understood as declaring that, in any case, the relation of elder and eldership should be either permanent or limited; but while the office is perpetual, the time of its exercise in each individual congregation must be left to the decision of the church itself, according to the mode approved of and in use in such church."—Minutes for 1879, page 75.

To question second we reply that as this is a question of expediency it must be determined by the exigencies of each particular case, but no resignation is necessary.

We recommend that question third be answered in the affirmative.

The report was received and made the order of the day for the afternoon.

Resumed business in the afternoon and continued the consideration of sessional records.

The special committee on the Bloomfield case reported that the complaint of A. B. Neal is not a judicial business, but recommend the reading of designated parts of the papers presented, and also of the sessional records; that after the reading Mr. Boal be heard, and then in response the persons representing the congregation. The third part of Mr. Boal's paper being a complaint against the session of the Bloomfield church for neglect of duty, and though there be a difference of opinion as to whether the constitutional requirement as to giving notice of intended complaint was complied with, the committee recommend that the presbytery should take up the case according to the order of the book.

The report was made the order of the day after the disposition of the Bellefield case.

Rev. S. Hanna resigned the pastoral charge of the congregation of West Elizabeth.

A call from the Minersville congregation on Mr. William McKibbin to become their pastor was read and approved. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for Mr. McKibbin's ordination and installation.

Dr. Scovel offered two resolutions, recommending sessions to hold regular monthly meetings, and that each session keep a book in which shall be recorded baptisms, marriages, congregational meetings, names of officers, &c. Adopted.

Took up the "Bellefield case." The report (as given above) was read by the Moderator, clause by clause *seriatim*. The preamble having been read, Dr. McKinney moved as an amendment that the complainants be dismissed. Mr. Boal objected against the hearing, and that the case be decided in such a way as will best promote the spiritual interests of the Bellefield congregation. Dr. Noble moved that the amendment be laid on the table. The motion to lay on the table was carried by a standing vote.

Rev. C. V. McKaig moved as an amendment that the word "dismissal" be stricken from the preamble and the following words substituted: "That it be taken up and discussed as a petition for counsel." On motion the amendment was laid on the table. The preamble was then adopted.

[The first recommendation in the report was then read. Dr. McKinney moved as a substitute that "a rotary eldership is contrary to the scriptures and constitution of the church."

Rev. S. A. Taggart presented a certificate of dismissal from the U. P. Presbytery of Westmoreland and was received as a member of Presbytery.

EVENING SESSION.

Presbytery was called to order at half-past seven o'clock. The committee appointed to make arrangements for the ordination of Mr. McKibbin reported, and recommended that the ordination take place on the twentieth of May at three o'clock P. M.

Resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the Bellefield case. Dr. McKinney took the floor in support of his amendment offered at the afternoon session. He said th re is an erroneous impression abroad that the office of elder is of man and not of God. But the eldership is an office of divine institution and appointment. An elder is an agent for and under Christ. It is said of the apostles, "they ordained them elders in every city." They are overseers of the flock. They are worthy of double honor. Therefore the ordination formula for elders, whether reading or teaching. The Confession of Faith says that pastors, elders and deacons are *perpetual offices*, and therefore they cannot be laid aside at pleasure. An officer cannot be deprived of his office only by impeachment. When an elder becomes "incapable" the session is "to take order;" he is not to resign himself. It is sometimes urged against the doctrine that it makes a hierarchy in the church. Who is this hierarch? Who is the high priest in heaven and on earth? It is the Lord Jesus Christ. Then the word hierarchy does not frighten him. The priest and the Levite had a permanent office. Rotation in office was not an apostolic office, nor in that of a deacon. The elders are the representatives of the people, as Moses was the representative of Israel, and made so by God, and not by Moses' choice.

Rev. S. J. Fisher said the advocates of a rotary eldership held that the session has an office higher even than elder. *Dr.* McKinney should know that a Levite became a priest at twenty-five and ceased to act at fifty. Where then is the "perpetual" element of eldership? A congregation should have the right to say, that a man shall not continue to act when he does not discharge the duty aright that Christ has called him to perform. So when he becomes crooked and unpopular.

Rev. D. T. Carnahan, pastor of Bellefield congregation, assured the Presbytery and the public that there was no quarrel or feeling between him and the congregation. But the general Assembly—the Supreme Court of the Church, had finally settled the question. It did not say it was wrong to elect for a definite or indefinite term of service, and that law was binding on all. It leaves it optional with congregations whether they elect for life or for a limited time of service. It is a mere assumption that elders are, in any case elected for life. They are merely elected for an indefinite period.

At this point the hour for adjournment arrived.

The committee on the arrangements for the installation of Mr. Hanna at Hebron, recommended that it take place on the 22d of May.

The committee of ladies who entertained Presbytery yesterday are entitled to as much credit as the one that entertained it on Tuesday. All the members of Presbytery expressed their great satisfaction at the treatment they received. The compliment paid by us yesterday may be considered as unintentionally given to the ladies who waited on the Presbytery on Wednesday.

ANOTHER OLD CITIZEN GONE.

Sudden Death of Capt. John Young, Jr., of Robinson township, were surprised as well as pained to hear of his sudden death, which occurred suddenly Thursday evening, after he had retired to bed. He had been in his usual good health, was in the city Wednesday, attending to business, but remained at home Thursday, which is quite well. In the evening he spent some time writing letters, and retired about 9 o'clock. Some twenty minutes after he had lain down his wife was attracted by a peculiar sound by in his heavy breathing, and in a few minutes he expired. Capt. Young was in his seventieth year, was a native of Robinson township, and was well known throughout the county. He followed farming for a livelihood, and took a very active interest in everything pertaining to agriculture. For many years he was connected with the county Agricultural Society, either as a manager or officer, and was recently President to the Board of Managers. Some twenty or twenty-five years ago he served a term as Clerk of the County Courts, and in October, 1870, was chosen to the office of Jury Commissioner, which he held at the time of his death. He was a man of sterling integrity and unblemished reputation. His genial manner and kindly disposition won him friends wherever he went, and few men have been so universally esteemed. He leaves a most estimable wife and several adult children. One of his sons, Col. S. B. M. Young, served with credit in the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and is now in the regular army. Another, Capt. Richard B. Young, served in Battery C, Fifth Pennsylvania Artillery. The deceased, although he had almost reached "three score years and ten," was as hale and vigorous as a man of fifty, and had for many years enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health. He was a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, and had entered into the canvass with his spirit, and with fair chances of success. His death is peculiarly sad and painful, but his friends have the consolation of knowing that he died as he lived—an upright citizen and a consistent Christian. He was one of the oldest members of the United Presbyterian Church in his township, and was, we believe, an active one. His funeral will take place on Sunday (to-morrow) morning, at seven o'clock.

THE SAFE DEPOSIT ROBBERY.

The Railroad Bond Recovered—An Arrest in New York—Probable Explanation of the Robbery and the Relief of Innocent Parties from Suspicion.

In Tuesday's COMMERCIAL we published a dispatch from New York, which stated that a curbstone broker named Charles G. Hampton was arrested for having in his possession a large amount of Western railroad securities, said to have been stolen. This was the result of the visit of Col. Wm. Phillips to the East, mention of which was made in our columns in connection with the robbery of the Safe Deposit Company of the cash box of the old Fellows' Savings Bank. It was rumored in the street yesterday that Col. Phillips had made information before the Mayor against three parties for the robbery about which there has been so much gossip. There is no truth in the report, however, and the many surmises it occasioned, as to who the guilty parties are, were entirely without foundation. Col. Phillips, as well as other officers of the Safe Deposit Company, have been endeavoring to find a clue to the mystery of the loss, and the circumstances shown by the dispatch is the clue to it. All the rumors so prevalent relating to the parties supposed to be implicated are without foundation, and do great injustice, as, it is now believed, will soon be clearly shown.

From Col. Phillips we learn that the bond of the Allegheny Valley Railroad, which was part of the coupons of the bonds was offered for sale in New York city on the Monday after the robbery, showing that the persons who committed the robbery were here on Sunday, and therefore it was stolen on Saturday evening. The broker firm in New York to whom it was offered sent it to Philadelphia for authentication, and the printed bond that was all that had been handed over the proceeds to Hampton, the man in custody. Before Col. Phillips went East and on Tuesday in Philadelphia he got the bond and had it in his hands when received there. He immediately had it attached to the New York brokers were telegraphed to to have the seller arrested, and the circumstances satisfactorily arrived too late. The New York authorities were notified of the occurrence and detectives were set on the track of Hampton. On Monday last the news was received here that he was spotted, and as a result, information was at once sent East to have the arrest effected. Inspector Byrnes, of New York, and by an officer, before Mayor Havemeyer against Hampton. A warrant was issued and the officer started on his way

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1873.

GRANT parish, Louisiana, the scene of the recent brutal massacre of negroes at the hands of the ex-rebels of that region, is some two hundred miles up the Red river. Those who have read "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will recollect that the author locates the plantation of that human blood-hound, LEGREE, in the same neighborhood, and the murderers would seem to have descended from him.

THE MANAGERS of the Boston public schools are now considering the propriety of giving instruction in sewing to all the girls' classes in the grammar schools. This branch of industrial education is now taught with gratifying success in some rooms. It is so important a part of female education, and has such direct bearing upon the practical duties of life, that those here and elsewhere concerned in educational matters will watch with great interest the result of the Boston experiment.

THE local elections in New Jersey held last week show that the Republicans have been able to hold their own in that State, and maintain the ascendancy they won last fall. They carry fourteen out of twenty-one counties of the State. In the State Senate, ten Republicans hold over, and five Democrats, and six are to be chosen next fall. Of these six, the local elections just held show that the Republicans will elect three and probably four, which ensures a Republican majority in that body.

WE learn from authentic sources, that an important statement will soon be made public at Washington, regarding a gigantic scheme said to be already nearly matured, to obtain control of the entire transportation traffic in the United States. The scheme has been carefully concealed and attempts made to involve members of Congress to prevent adverse legislation. Advances to subsidize a well known Senator from the West, by a proffer of stock at par, are reported as the cause of the impending exposure.

THE latest mail advices from England state that the coal famine has had such an effect on the cost of operating the railroads, that the stock in these enterprises has depreciated in value, with a sudden and heavy decline, which has had no parallel since the panic of 1865. No other department of industry has been so seriously affected. On some of the railways the additional cost of fuel for locomotive power has absorbed the whole of the dividend, and in almost every instance has either reduced the dividend or rendered it stationary, notwithstanding a large increase of traffic.

IT APPEARS that, notwithstanding the adverse decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Mrs. MYRA BRADWELL, of Illinois, to which we recently referred, that energetic lady has carried the point directly at issue. A short time after the State Supreme Court denied her application for a license to practice law, the Legislature passed an act providing that "no person shall be precluded or debarred from any occupation, profession or employment (except military) on account of sex; provided that this act shall not be construed to affect the eligibility of any person to an elective office." This would seem to settle the matter beyond further question.

THE United States Senate Transportation Committee, with a view to legislation by Congress next winter, invite State governments, boards of trade, merchants, farmers, and others interested, to send statements of their various grievances, with facts and figures, to the Chairman of the Committee, Senator WINDOM, at Washington. Farmers, merchants and manufacturers will do well to respond to this invitation, by forwarding carefully prepared memorials, quoting the various facts, giving all the statistics they can procure, and clearly stating all the matters of which they complain and the remedies they desire Congress to enact, to the end that that body may be enabled to proceed in a plain, direct and definite manner.

THE ACHEENESE, with whom the Dutch are now at war, are Malays, of mixed Hindoo origin, brave and persevering in character, and quite extensively engaged in commercial pursuits. Acheen is an independent State, in the northern part of the island of Sumatra, and in times past has successfully resisted the attempts of both the English and the Portuguese to subdue it. The country is comparatively well cultivated, and produces largely of pepper. It embraces an area of about two thousand square miles, and a population of some three quarters of a million. How the contest will eventuate remains to be seen. Thus far it seems to have resulted quite disastrously to the Dutch aggressors.

THE country is agitated almost from centre to circumference at present, in its efforts to coerce man into sobriety. Societies and organizations that are based on moral suasion are always ready to extend to fallen man a brother's hand, and a brother's welcome; yet poor woman—"weak, unfortunate, frail woman," is allowed to tread the gloomy road to chaos and destruction, without hardly a friendly hand to stay her progress and turn her from her downward course. Sentimental appeals to the feelings have been exhausted, yet nothing practical has been done for them. Society seems to have the closest lesson given upon all those who have once incurred its censure. We hope some of our practical reform ers may have the courage to take this subject into consideration.

THOSE Members of Congress who thought to purchase a little local popularity by notifying the Sergeant-at-Arms that they did not intend to draw the amount due them on the salary steal—with the reserved purpose of waiting until the popular indignation should have lessened or subsided—are in a fair way of being made to act honestly in the matter against their intentions. The other day Gen. BUTLER applied to the First Comptroller for his opinion and advice in the premises, the latter has decided that the notification is sufficient to authorize the covering of the money into the Treasury without any further authority. By the Congressmen themselves it was generally supposed that the money would be subject to their order for two years. Those, therefore, who were willing to share in the plunder, but not willing to share the odium, will be likely to find themselves somewhat lighter in pocket than they had privately counted upon.

THE voters of this county will have to elect at the ensuing fall election, two Judges of the District Court, a President Judge (the term of Judge HAMPTON expiring next December), and an additional Associate Judge, as directed by the act of the Legislature lately passed. The Republican Judiciary Convention will nominate candidates for both these places. Judge HAMPTON, we understand, will be a candidate for re-nomination, and W. B. NEGLEY, Esq., and THOMAS EWING, Esq., will also be candidates. For the Associate Judgship the candidates at present named are J. W. F. WHITE, Esq., H. LAUGHLIN, Esq., and O. S. FETTERMAN, Esq. Messrs. WHITE and EWING are both members of the Constitutional Convention, and neither of them will be at home during the canvass for nominations; but as it has not been usual for candidates for judicial position to make personal canvass for the place, that fact is not likely to enter into the result.

HISTORY is philosophy teaching by example. The commercial failures in the United States for 1870, 1871 and 1872 show that the further we depart from cash principles, the more we run into danger. The failures for last year are reported as aggregating $121,000,000, against $85,000,000 in 1871. A considerable part of this increase is known to be due to the great fires in Chicago and Boston, but in States almost unaffected by those calamities the increase was also large. Thus, the failures in Alabama increased from $525,000 in 1871 to $1,501,000 in 1872; in Georgia from $964,000 to $1,293,000; in Kentucky from $1,163,000 to $2,959,000; in Louisiana from $2,437,000 to $3,100,000; in Missouri from $1,995,000 to $2,670,000; in Maryland from $1,196,000 to $5,045,000; in Michigan from $1,521,000 to $2,720,000; in Tennessee from $369,000 to $1,438,000, and in Wisconsin from $386,000 to $1,127,000. It is to be hoped the mercantile public may have the wisdom to take warning in time.

THERE is some prospect that a general international agreement with regard to the question of patent rights may presently be reached. It is proposed to hold an International Congress in Vienna, on the 4th of August, to discuss the rights of inventors and to recommend a uniform patent system for adoption by all civilized countries. This Congress will be composed of skilled workmen, manufacturers, scientific observers, and other experts, and its purpose is to secure, by methods of protection, under the sanctions of international law, for all inventors who have added or may hereafter add to the wealth of the world by the construction of labor-saving machines. The British Parliament has already declared in favor of such an assimilation, and it is officially stated that after the adjournment of the Congress, Austria will be ready to negotiate a treaty with our government. There is a party, looking to the precedents of Switzerland and Holland, which will agitate for the entire abolition of patents, but there is little likelihood of their success.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

The ease with which any new development of religious thought is put down as "heterodox," is equaled by the facility with which anything done in carrying on the government is denounced, by those who do not like it, as "unconstitutional." From the glibness with which these decisions are rendered on constitutional questions, an unadvised observer might conclude that constitutional learning was one of the ordinary acquirements of every American citizen.

The latest "unconstitutional" act that has been discovered is the appointment of Senators GRAHAM, RUTAN and DAVIS, of Berks, as Commissioners to the Vienna Exposition. The clause in the Constitution alleged to be violated by their appointment is the following:

"No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under this Commonwealth which shall have been created or the emoluments of which shall have been increased during such time."

The answer to the constitutional objection thus raised is that the Commission to the Vienna Exposition is *not* a "civil office" in the meaning of the Constitution. It is a mere Commission to obtain information to be laid before the Legislature, without salary, the $6,000 appropriated to the use of the Commissioners being solely to defray their necessary expenses. The whole question was thoroughly discussed, by men well versed in Constitutional law, before the appointments were made, and the unanimous opinion arrived at was that the appointments were in no way forbidden by the Constitution.

A "civil office" is well understood to be an office with a specified tenure, powers and compensation. A Commission such as this, to obtain information for the use of the Legislature, is not such an office. It has none of the elements of a "civil office." It has neither tenure, compensation or powers. Its one duty is to inquire and report, and the State merely undertakes to defray the expenses of such inquiry and report. Such commissions have been frequently raised, hitherto without question as to their constitutionality.

Under the joint resolution approved March 19, 1873, the Governor was authorized to appoint as many Commissioners to the Vienna Exposition as he saw fit, without pay. Under the sixty-second section of the appropriation act, the Governor was authorized to designate *three* of the Commissioners whom he was authorized to appoint under the joint resolution of March 19, to make inquiry at the Vienna Exposition on all subjects of importance to Pennsylvania, and make report of their observations and inquiries to the next Legislature, and the sum of $6,000 was appropriated to pay their expenses in so doing. No duties are imposed on any of the other Commissioners. The appointment of all the Commissioners is made under the joint resolution of March 29, and is merely honorary and without pay; the duty of making observations, inquiry and report, is imposed on three of them, by the appropriation act, and the Legislature very properly provided that the expenses of those on whom this duty was laid should be borne by the State.

But why, it may be asked, was such an inquiry authorized? What good end can it serve, and of what use can such a report be to the next Legislature? The answer is easy. Pennsylvania is, herself, going into the Exposition business. She is going to have a grand one of her own in 1876, for which she has appropriated a million of dollars and the management of which is partially, if not mainly, in her own hands. It is but natural she should want to know how such things are done abroad, and in order that she may be able to profit by what is to be seen and learned there, the appointment of a Legislative Commission to make report of the facts to the Legislature seemed the proper and legitimate method. Other States, Ohio amongst the number, have done and are doing the same thing, and why should Pennsylvania be behind them?

It is proper to add that this 62d section of the Appropriation bill was not offered in the Conference Committee until all the other parts of the bill had been disposed of. Its adoption was not the result of a bargain, or understanding, and no one on that committee or in either House had any intimation as to whom the Governor would designate. The whole matter was left in the Governor's hands, and he has acted in the matter solely on his own judgment. Hon. WM. A. WALLACE was one of the Conference Committee on the part of the Senate, and heartily acquiesced in the incorporation of the 62d section in the Appropriation bill. He is a strict constructionist on all constitutional questions; and as he failed to see anything "unconstitutional" (or improper, even) in it, we shall wait until a better lawyer than he calls his judgment in question before giving up the opinions we have herein expressed.

INCREASE OF THE DENOMINATIONS.

One of our contemporaries has been exploring the United States census volumes in pursuit of ecclesiastical statistics, with some traits of general interest. It seems that between 1850 and 1870, while the number of church members nearly doubled itself, the amount of church property increased fourfold; a statement which refers to all the denominations in the aggregate. In detail, the Catholics are found to have doubled their number in the interval mentioned, and their church property in 1870 was about six times what it had been in 1850. Its now estimated at sixty millions of dollars. As it is owned by bishops, "their lordships," as Father GALITZIN always called them, are rapidly becoming the richest men in the country. However, they are, after all, mere trustees, "occupying" the property for sacred purposes, and to avoid the distraction and inefficiency which would necessarily attend its administration, if its ownership were divided or distributed. In truth, the arrangement is an essential feature of the system which is so ingeniously contrived to secure the cohesion and unity of the Church. The bishops are always tried men, and can be depended upon; whereas laymen or even mere priests are exposed to temptations which might lead them into attempts at independence, with the result of distracting the faithful and of robbing the Holy See. Though slightly digressing from our statistics, we could not pass by an opportunity of vindicating the wisdom of the policy.

In the twenty years referred to, the Methodists increased their church property from fourteen to seventy millions of dollars. In Pennsylvania the gain in membership was fifty per cent.: since 1869 their increase has been only six per cent., a surprising difference, it should seem. Perhaps it is to be ascribed chiefly to the enhanced zeal and activity of other denominations, in connection with those facilities of intercommunication which render missionary operations on the frontier somewhat independent of those laborious modes of travel and fellow men. Justice upon the guilty is all we demand, and we demand that as a public due, whether the guilty ones be Indians or Louisiana Democrats.

THE COAL SUPPLY.

In the geographies and school books that were used a generation ago it was stated that "in the hills opposite Pittsburgh were *inexhaustible* supplies of coal," and it has been the custom to speak of the coal resources of Western Pennsylvania as likewise "inexhaustible," just as, a few years ago, it was usual to speak of the coal supplies of England. Yet the coal in the hills opposite Pittsburgh has been completely exhausted this many years, and the recent rapid advance in the price of coal in England has demonstrated the fallacy of the "inexhaustible" theory, there. England has been mining coal at the rate of 125,000,000 tons yearly—a rate which, at no very distant date, must lead to total exhaustion. It will not do, therefore, to lay the flattering unction to our souls that *our* supplies are incapable of exhaustion. For the present they may seem boundless and limitless; but we are using them up steadily, and at a rate which must, within a calculable limit, tell upon the sum total, however large we may fancy that to be.

The census statistics show that in 1870 Pennsylvania mined and sent to market 7,840,000 tons of bituminous coal, all of which came from the western part of the State, and the census is not regarded as showing the full amount so mined. Its figures are approximate, only, and it is therefore safe to assume that we are now mining at the rate of 9,000,000 tons a year. A ton is, in round numbers, 30 bushels; and as the calculation of coal quantities is better understood here by bushels than by tons, we will, for the better understanding of the problem, reduce the tons to bushels. The total yearly product of bituminous coal in Western Pennsylvania is, therefore, 270,000,000 bushels. An acre of coal is variously understood to yield from 80,000 to 100,000 bushels; but fix it at the highest figure and say that an acre will average 100,000 bushels, and this yearly drain will be seen to exhaust 2,700 acres. This in ten years will amount to 27,000 acres, and in 100 years to 270,000 acres; but it is not supposable that a trade which seems only in its infancy, will stop at the figure now attained. In ten years from now, from present appearances, the product of 1873 will be doubled, and in less than thirty years quadrupled; so that, probably by the opening of the twentieth century, we shall be using up ten thousand acres of coal yearly.

The area of the coal field of Western Pennsylvania is probably less than 5,000 square miles. This is a large area, and no one now living need fret about its being exhausted in his day or that of his children or grandchildren; but still, if we are now using up five square miles yearly, and go on steadily increasing to ten, twenty and forty square miles yearly, it is easy to figure out the exact limit of the supply. Even now, the cost of bringing it to market is so much increased that we may safely conclude the days of cheap coal are over. We shall never again see it as cheap as it has been. As the river hills become exhausted, and the tramways have to be extended back, and still further back, and timber grows scarcer and scarcer and labor dearer, the cost of putting it on the market must steadily increase.

The sum of it all, then, is that while we have plenty of coal to last us for hundreds of years to come, the supply is inevitably limited, and that, in the near-at-hand supplies are being rapidly used up, the more distant supplies will cost more to deliver. There is no danger of a coal famine for a long time to come; but there is, on the other hand, no prospect of cheaper prices in the future.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the slaughter-house cases from Louisiana, furnishes a decisive judicial interpretation of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth amendments to the Constitution, and the construction thus placed on those amendments is of sufficient importance to merit momentary attention.

The State of Louisiana, it is understood, passed an act giving to a certain chartered company the exclusive right to slaughter animals for food in the vicinity, and required all butchers to have their slaughtering done at the place established for that purpose by that company. The butchers of New Orleans resented this as an invasion of their natural rights, and took a case up to the Supreme Court, basing their appeal to that tribunal on the ground that the act was a violation of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth amendments of the National Constitution—of the Thirteenth amendment because it reduced the butchers to a state of servitude, and of the Fourteenth, because it abridged their privileges and immunities as citizens of the United States.

The Supreme Court decides that the act is not a violation of either of these amendments. Those amendments, the Court says, were adopted to free the negroes and to protect them in their freedom, and although couched in general terms, are not to be wrested from their plain object. The Thirteenth amendment was adopted to deliver the negroes from involuntary servitude, and the Fourteenth to protect them in the enjoyment of their civil rights. The butchers of New Orleans are not reduced to "involuntary servitude" by the act of the Legislature of Louisiana, nor does it deprive them of any of their rights as citizens of the United States. The Fourteenth amendment protects the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States from the hostile action of the States but *not* those of the citizens of the several States.

Some timid and apprehensive people who have been lamenting the steady tendency to centralization in the National government, and to the destruction of State rights may take new heart from this decision. It is a very conclusive refusal to stretch the meaning of the Constitution so as to interfere with State legislation and recognizes to the full the rights of the States to manage their own affairs in their own way, free from the interference of the National government. It is in this regard, a wholesome decision, and scatters to the winds many crude theories and interpretations.

In one other respect, also, we hail this decision as salutary. It establishes the power of the State Legislatures over the whole subject of sanitary regulations in cities. This power, it says, is among the most necessary and frequent exercises of power belonging to the States, and the exclusive authority of the Legislatures over the subject is well settled. It will be a healthful thing for municipal rings, therefore, if they do not hereafter obtain from their respective Legislatures full power to protect the health of their citizens in all respects.

THE COAL SUPPLY.

As an illustration of the facts yesterday presented on the question of coal supply, and the rapid growth of the bituminous coal trade at this point, we reprint the following table, showing the amount of bituminous coal shipped out of the Monongahela river since 1844. It is an instructive table. We take it from "A History of the Monongahela Navigation Company," lately published:

Year.	Bushels.	Year.	Bushels.
1844	717,186	1859	25,286,671
1845	4,005,185	1860	27,347,732
1846	7,775,915	1861	20,965,722
1847	9,646,197	1862	18,583,956
1848	9,819,561	1863	25,444,922
1849	9,766,597	1864	35,070,917
1850	12,797,967	1865	59,322,792
1851	14,851,293	1866	62,615,300
1852	14,620,841	1867	59,072,760
1853	15,716,867	1868	45,391,000
1854	17,381,946	1869	57,512,600
1855	22,234,009	1870	67,596,400
1856	8,584,698	1871	48,621,300
1857	23,873,696	1872	54,288,800
1858	25,626,669		
Total			737,931,101

From this it will be seen that in less than thirty years the supply from the Monongahela has grown from less than a million bushels to over fifty-seven millions of bushels. This is a most astounding rate of growth, and it would be unfair to apply it to the future; but if we take the figures of the last ten years for the rate of growth, we find that the trade of that river has grown in that time from 26,244,252 bushels in 1863 to 54,208,800 bushels in 1872 of about 105 per cent. The same rate of increase in the next ten years, applied to the whole coal trade of Western Pennsylvania, will raise the aggregate from 270,000,000 bushels to 553,960,000 bushels in 1883.

The figures we have given in the table above apply only to one source of supply—the Monongahela river. The supply by railroad has increased even faster than on the river, and is still steadily growing.

SHIP CANAL.

A very important measure, in connection with the question of cheap transportation, has passed the Lower House of the New York Legislature. It has not yet passed the Senate; but as it went very promptly through the House, it is not unreasonable to suppose that it will also pass the Senate. It provides for making a ship canal to connect the Hudson river with the upper part of Lake Champlain, it being understood that the Canadians are to construct a canal from Rouse's Point to the St. Lawrence. This is one of the most costly enterprises of the kind that has been undertaken for many years past. It will involve the improvement of the channel in Lake Champlain from Whitehall to Ticonderoga; the widening and deepening of the upper part of the Champlain Canal, and the improvement of navigation in the Hudson from Hudson to Fort Edward. The object is to provide a *free* ship canal from the lakes to tide-water, the widening and deepening of the Champlain Canal to be extensive enough to allow the passage of vessels drawing ten feet. This would, if accomplished, cheapen transportation materially in the summer time, and would naturally tend to draw the grain trade to New York.

COMMISSIONERS TO VIENNA.

Under the joint resolution of March 19, 1873, authorizing the Governor to appoint as many Commissioners to the Vienna Exposition (without pay) as he may deem expedient, Governor HARTRANFT has appointed the following named gentlemen, in addition to the three Senators designated under Section 62 of the Appropriation act, viz:

"George J. Sherman, Titusville, Crawford county; J. H. Dunn, John C. Bullitt, Joseph Hurst, Francis Gurney Smith, M. D., Henry Lewis, Samuel G. Thompson, D. Brainerd Williamson and Wm. McCurdy, Philadelphia; Wm. C. Smythe, Alex. Chambers, Henry W. Oliver, Jr., and J. J. Gillespie, Pittsburgh; Samuel M. Wherry, Shippensburg, Cumberland county; Andrew Cone, Oil City, Venango county; Edward Campbausen, Erie, Erie county; W. H. Smiley, York, York county; Rev. Dr. M. Meigs, Pottstown, Montgomery county; Chas. A. Minor, Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county; J. B. Pinlay and W. H. Stewart, Kittanning, Armstrong county.

THAT terrible disease, known as cerebro-spinal meningitis, seems to be spreading widely in various parts of the country. In some localities the malady, partly, perhaps, on account of its forbidding name, and partly by reason of the number and severity of the cases reported, appears to have created a decided panic. There is, however, no occasion for special alarm. The disease is not a new one. As science advances and its means of examination and analysis become more numerous and definite, various diseases which have hitherto been all classed under one general head, are observed to possess certain peculiarities which warrant them being classed by themselves. So with the cerebro-spinal meningitis. The name is moderately new, but that the disease has existed to a greater or less extent, for time illimitable, is as certain as that human flesh has been heir to ills. It is an affection of the posterior portion of the brain, causing inflammation of the spinal cord. This inflammation, when severe, causes the muscles which are fed by the nerves affected, to become constrained and the head to be drawn back in the eminently painful and constrained condition which appears to be the marked feature of the disease. Its causes are uncertain. Some medical authorities consider it an epidemic, and others not. The case is an endemic, whether or not foul atmosphere much damp weather, hard and over work, or a hundred other natural causes give it birth, is undecided. That it is an epidemic is generally denied, and also that it is contagious; and it is claimed that if two or more people in the same house or neighborhood are affected, they will be found to have been exposed to similar influences. Some physicians consider it an hereditary disease, and in the case of which so little is really known, that no one opinion is likely to be held by half a dozen of physicians. That the malady, upon the whole, has appeared this spring to a more than usual extent, cannot be denied, yet that may have been caused by no special visitation, but by certain local causes which would provoke its appearance among those alone who have been exposed to them. People who take the usual care of their health may probably rest in comparative security from the cerebro-spinal meningitis, as from any other disease.

SOME TIME ago the Commissioner of Agriculture instituted a careful inquiry into the condition and prospects of the Southern labor supply. The results of the investigation have just been published, their substance being that the efficiency of colored labor in the South is greater now than it has been at any time since the war, and is improving, and that the whites are slowly coming into the traces, and gaining for labor a dignity which finally will be as it is popular among white men at the North as it is among white men in the North and West. This is the right spirit, and augurs well for the future of that section of our common country. There is no question that want of energy on the part of the whites has heretofore been the principal cause of discouragement. If they had taken the same interest in the development of the resources of their States which they have done in railing against the government and cursing "carpet-baggers" —if they had held out a cordial hand to the Northern emigrants instead of asking them where he was born—if they had gone cheerfully to work themselves instead of surlily telling others to do so—they would have been vastly better off than they are now. With a soil capable of producing more corn than ten times the extent of their needs, they send millions of dollars to the West for it. They bring forage from other States, which they might supply themselves. With timber unsurpassed of all kinds, almost every article of furniture and every wooden utensil used in households comes from the North. With abundant water power, there is hardly a factory worth mentioning. With fields admirably adapted to the use of cultivating machines, it has been a very rare occurrence to see one in operation. Had the planters of the South set an example to the colored people of superior foresight, industry and energy, adopted the peaceful plan of moral suasion with the negro, urged the similarity of interest between the employer and employed in their new relation, and made, besides, some political concessions, the path to a solution of the labor problem would have been very much shorter than it has proved. But it is never too late to mend, and it is sincerely to be hoped the present promising indications of a better order of things may indefinitely continue.

THE Democratic party is hard up for party capital, and it grasps at each passing event, in the hope that it will furnish it the political food it seeks. When GEO. W. CURTIS was at the head of the Civil Service Commission the newspapers of that party ridiculed him and denounced him and the President for insincerity in the carrying out the civil service policy; but when Curtis left the commission, fancying that they saw in that fact the groundwork of a quarrel between him and the President, they found him to be a marvelous proper man. Three years ago he was a demagogue; now he is a statesman.

The latest instance of this gathering up of little odds and ends for something on which to base an opposition to the Administration, is to be found in the course of the Democratic papers on the Modoc massacre. They treat it as a godsend, and with one accord set up a yelp for the indiscriminate slaughter of the whole Indian race. Nothing less than the instantaneous extinction of every Modoc Indian blood in his veins will satisfy their thirst for vengeance. The editor of the New York *World* leads off in this bloody howl, and is so sanguinary in his tastes that one is led to regret that he could not be employed in shortening the careers of the murderers and ruffians who infest the city where his paper is published. He can find plenty of bloody work at home, and men as worthy of instant death as the Modocs.

This sudden cry for vengeance on a whole race for the crime of a few is a poor bid for popular approval and sympathy. If the Democratic party never gets back into power until it stirs the national heart to cruelty and murderous bad faith, it will wait a long time for such return. The Seminole war was an illustration of its policy with the Indians. That war used up forty millions in money and a huge number of lives, and ended, after all, in removing the Seminoles to a reservation. Immediately the fortunes of contractors and sutlers turning into that street, or rather under it, three-five feet from the surface, they keep a straight course with the line of Fifth street, until the open cut is reached near Fulton avenue. Through trains southward bound will take what might be called the northern fork of the tunnel, and the passengers will see but little of the city on the sole use of ladies and children. The inner box is covered with a strong canvas, protected by a water-proof composition which will preserve it for years.

OMENS are auspicious, and there is reason for thankfulness when Southern journals, like the New Orleans *Times*, can, even incidentally, express such sentiments as the following, which we find in a discussion of the currency question in a recent number of that journal: "Had all the banks in this country been National banks, the disastrous attempt at secession, which brought upon the South such an Iliad of woes, would never have been dreamed of. The most ultra Southerner will not deny that secession was a mistake, if not a crime, and few will pretend to say, if the currency of the country had been as thoroughly national as it is at present, that such an attempt would have been possible."

THE New York Senate has passed a bill for the suppression of obscene literature, which, if enforced, will make short work of the immoral plots and still more indelicate illustrations generally, now exposed for sale at almost every news stand in the country. It will also compel the newspaper publishers of New York city and State to be more particular as to the sort of advertising admitted to their columns. This act had already received the approval of the other branch of the Legislature, and will no doubt be signed by Gov. DIX. If it accomplishes its object, all almost inestimable benefit will be conferred on the country at large.

DONALD MCKAY, the eminent ship-builder, believes that the old era of clipper ships, fast sailers, and constructed of wood, is about to return. The age of iron has lasted these twenty years. Steam has displaced sails, and now the circle is rounded and we are coming back to wind and wood. But whether they come from the mine or the forest, the ships are needed.

THERE are now, in Iowa, twelve hundred Granges of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, with an aggregate membership of nearly one hundred thousand. The farmers announce their intention to gain control of the next Legislature, and exact such laws as will bring the railroads to terms.

THE death of JOHN YOUNG creates a vacancy in the office of Jury Commissioner in this county, which will have to be filled by appointment until the people elect his successor in October next. The first Jury Commissioners were chosen in 1867, the second in 1870, and the third election comes in regular course in 1873. As to vacancies in this office, the seventh section of the act of April 10, 1867, provides as follows, viz:

"In case of the inability of either or all of the said Jury Commissioners, by sickness, death, or other unavoidable cause, to discharge the duties of said office, or in case of neglect or refusal to serve thereon, it shall be the duty of the President Judge in such county wherein said vacancy may have occurred, to appoint a suitable person or persons, as the case may be," &c.

The second section of the same act fixes the meaning of the words "President Judge," as used in the act, as applying to the President Judge of the Common Pleas, and this being so, the appointment falls to Judge STOWE, who will doubtless use his prerogative with sound discretion.

It is a pity, in our judgment, that this whole system of Jury Commissioners could not be swept out of existence. As a means of selecting jurors it is a failure. Some better plan must be substituted for it, and he will be a benefactor to the cause of legal justice who can devise a plan that will be more satisfactory and capable of application to the whole State. Repeated trials have shown that the Legislature will not repeal the present law for any county. The repeal must be general, and a general repeal can be had until a substitute is found that will be generally acceptable.

FREQUENT embarrassments concerning the question of riparian rights having heretofore arisen out of the operations of engineer officers engaged in works of river and harbor improvements, the Chief Engineer has just issued, for the guidance of subordinate officers, a compilation of the principal authoritative decisions upon the subject. The right and title to the lake shores is vested in the States, except in those comparatively few instances where title has been expressly conveyed to the United States. But the government can protect its works constructed for the general good, as well as cause the removal of obstructions to navigation by instituting legal proceedings under certain acts of Congress. The owners of land bounded by navigable waters have certain rights, independent of whether the title extends to the middle of the stream, such as free access to the navigable part of the water and the right to make a landing or wharf, but these rights are subject to general rules and regulations for the protection of the public rights in the stream. The ebb and flow of the tide are not the test of navigability from which results Federal jurisdiction, but actual navigation for trade and travel is the legal test. The rivers are within the jurisdiction of the general government when they form a continued highway between one or more States, or from the latter to foreign parts. The points thus succinctly set forth are of considerable public interest and importance.

THE New York *World* fully coincides in the opinion lately expressed by this paper, that the productiveness of the West would crowd and choke all the channels of transportation and glut all distant markets if they were multiplied tenfold, and that the true solution of the problem which just now so stirs and agitates the Western mind does not lie in multiplying and cheapening transportation to the seaboard, but in saving that transportation altogether by building up vast diversified industries in the West itself. This is an admirable protectionist argument to come from the leading free trade journal of the country. What is it but the protection which the government has thrown around our home industries, that is gradually building up home markets in that vast and fruitful region, thereby bringing producers and consumers closer together, and slowly doing away with the necessity of transportation for long distances? Illinois, for instance, is now second only to Pennsylvania in the manufacture of iron. It estimated that 85,000 tons of pig iron will be made this year in the State, the greater portion of which will be manufactured into Bessemer steel. Suppose we had had no tariff during the past ten years. Is it likely that Illinois—and other Western States which are following close on her heels—would have shown such a prosperous and encouraging exhibit? What do the free traders think about it?

THE FACTS as to the number, location and condition of the Indians within the limits of the United States, and their relations to the people and the government, are of especial interest at this time. The total number of Indians in the United States and Territories, exclusive of Alaska, is estimated by the Indian Department at 300,000, distributed as follows: In Minnesota and States east of the Mississippi river, 32,500; Nebraska, Kansas and Indian Territory, 70,650; Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, 65,000; Nevada, and Territories of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona, 84,700; California, Oregon and Washington, 47,850. About 180,000 of these are estimated to be entirely self-supporting; 84,000 are partly; and 31,000 wholly supported by the government: while some 55,000 eke out their subsistence by hunting and marauding. There are about 150,000 located on reservations under the charge of agents; 95,000 who come occasionally to the reservations, but pass most of their time in their normal nomadic habit; and 55,000 who never come to the reservations at all. The following is their classification as to civilization: Civilized, 30,000; semi-civilized, 125,000; wholly savage, 78,000. There are 180,000 living under treaties; 40,000 on reservations, but without treaties, and 80,000 without either reservations or treaties.

CONSIDERABLE concern appears to be felt in Continental Europe regarding the failing health of Pope PIUS IX., who cannot, at the farthest, even if he should recover from his present illness, have a great while longer to live. It is rumored that the venerable Pontiff now regrets the ultramontane position he assumed with reference to the temporal possessions of the Church, but that, having once taken it, at a time when neither himself nor his friends foresaw what was coming, he has since been compelled by the force of circumstances, and a sense of consistency, to continue it even against his better convictions. He is said to be heartily tired of his mock captivity, and it is reported that he would gladly receive overtures from VICTOR EMANUEL for a modification of the so-called Papal Law, necessity stand in the way on both sides. The King's Ministers, however, demand the absolute suppression of any clerical influence in matters of public policy, affirming that in a State like Italy there cannot be two ruling powers; while, on the other hand, the clerical party maintains the same principle, and declares the occupation of Rome a flagrant usurpation and outrage.

THE tunnel under the city of Baltimore, which will connect the Northern Central and the Philadelphia and Baltimore Roads with the Baltimore and Potomac Road, is nearly completed, and trains will run through some time in June or July. The Baltimore *American* thus describes it:

"Taking the Northern Central as a base line, double tracks diverge from it, the first at Boundary avenue and the other a few hundred yards further north. They each enter a tunnel and are lost sight of until they emerge into daylight at Joan street, where they unite and take the main tunnel, following Boundary avenue to Wilson street, and then

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A "civil office" is well understood to be an office with a specified tenure, powers and compensation. A Commission such as this, to obtain information for the use of the Legislature, is not such an office. It has none of the elements of a "civil office." It has neither tenure, compensation or powers. Its one duty is to inquire and report, and the State merely undertakes to defray the expenses of such inquiry and report. Such commissions have been frequently raised, hitherto without question as to their constitutionality.

Under the joint resolution approved March 19, 1873, the Governor was authorized to appoint as many Commissioners to the Vienna Exposition as he saw fit, without pay. Under the sixty-second section of the appropriation act, the Governor was authorized to designate *three* of the Commissioners whom he was authorized to appoint under the joint resolution of March 19, to make inquiry at the Vienna Exposition on all subjects of importance to Pennsylvania, and make report of their observations and inquiries to the next Legislature, and the sum of $6,000 was appropriated to pay their expenses in so doing. No duties are imposed on any of the other Commissioners. The appointment of all the Commissioners is made under the joint resolution of March 29, and is merely honorary and without pay; the duty of making observations, inquiry and report, is imposed on three of them, by the appropriation act, and the Legislature very properly provided that the expenses of those on whom this duty was laid should be borne by the State.

But why, it may be asked, was such an inquiry authorized? What good end can it serve, and of what use can such a report be to the next Legislature? The answer is easy. Pennsylvania is, herself, going into the Exposition business. She is going to have a grand one of her own in 1876, for which she has appropriated a million of dollars and the management of which is partially, if not mainly, in her own hands. It is but natural she should want to know how such things are done abroad, and in order that she may be able to profit by what is to be seen and learned there, the appointment of a Legislative Commission to make report of the facts to the Legislature seemed the proper and legitimate method. Other States, Ohio amongst the number, have done and are doing the same thing, and why should Pennsylvania be behind them?

It is proper to add that this 62d section of the Appropriation bill was not offered in the Conference Committee until all the other parts of the bill had been disposed of. Its adoption was not the result of a bargain, or understanding, and no one on that committee or in either House had any intimation as to whom the Governor would designate. The whole matter was left in the Governor's hands, and he has acted in the matter solely on his own judgment. Hon. WM. A. WALLACE was one of the Conference Committee on the part of the Senate, and heartily acquiesced in the incorporation of the 62d section in the Appropriation bill. He is a strict constructionist on all constitutional questions; and as he failed to see anything "unconstitutional" (or improper, even) in it, we shall wait until a better lawyer than he calls his judgment in question before giving up the opinions we have herein expressed.

INCREASE OF THE DENOMINATIONS.

One of our contemporaries has been exploring the United States census volumes in pursuit of ecclesiastical statistics, with some traits of general interest. It seems that between 1850 and 1870, while the number of church members nearly doubled itself, the amount of church property increased fourfold; a statement which refers to all the denominations in the aggregate. In detail, the Catholics are found to have doubled their number in the interval mentioned, and their church property in 1870 was about six times what it had been in 1850. Its now estimated at sixty millions of dollars. As it is owned by bishops, "their lordships," as Father GALITZIN always called them, are rapidly becoming the richest men in the country. However, they are, after all, mere trustees, "occupying" the property for sacred purposes, and to avoid the distraction and inefficiency which would necessarily attend its administration, if its ownership were divided or distributed. In truth, the arrangement is an essential feature of the system which is so ing